

# ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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## CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE.

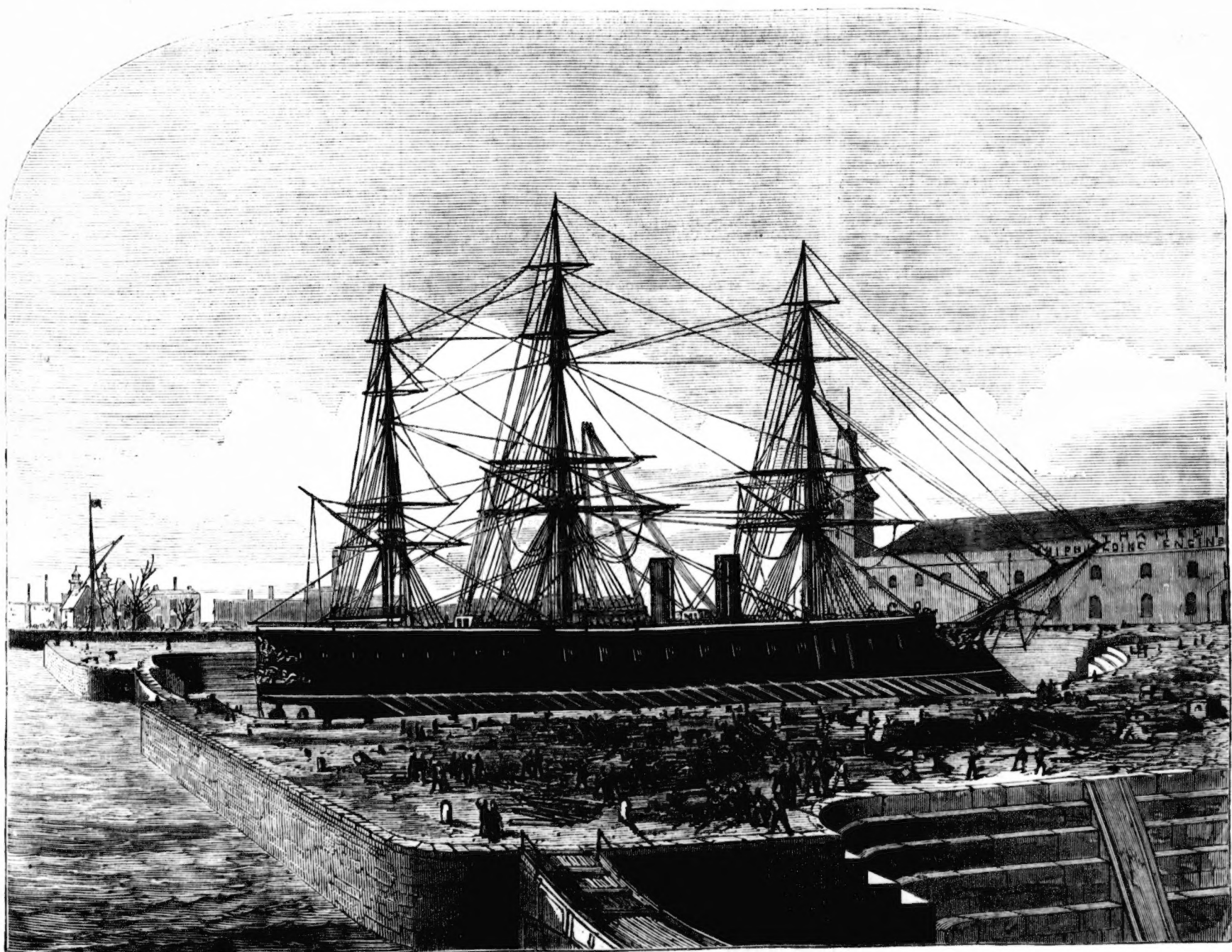
WHILE there is a good deal of natural *vis inertia* about the British farmer, he is yet not altogether wanting in go-ahead qualities. He is slow to receive new ideas, likes to walk in the ancient ways, and has a somewhat too great tendency to literally obey the injunction to "meddle not with those that are given to change;" but when new ideas, fresh paths, and changed methods, are forced upon him, he frankly "accepts the situation," and does his utmost to make the best of it. He may let other classes outrun him in the race of progress for a while; but he generally manages to catch them up in the long run. For example, it took a long time to satisfy the bucolic mind that agriculture would not be ruined by the abrogation of protection; now there are no better free-traders than our farmers. They were wont to be always complaining of distress, and to be continually calling upon the Legislature to help them; now they help themselves, and we hear of "agricultural distress" no more. Machinery and improved implements and ways of working—especially the application of steam power—had been introduced into almost every other branch of industry before the British farmer thought of invoking such aids; now, no one is more eager than he in calling for the products of inventive genius, or more keen in watching experiments with new machinery and new ways of conducting rural operations. He was wont to sneer at science and to work in old well-worn rule-of-thumb

modes; now he invokes the help of chemistry and other sciences in testing the qualities of his soil, his manures, and his crops. It was his habit once to act in isolation and to trust to his own individual experiences; now he has become gregarious, and consults and compares notes with his fellows. Scientific agriculture, high farming, and educated farmers, were almost unknown even a few years ago; now they are becoming every day more and more the rule. All this is exceedingly satisfactory; and, though much yet remains to be done ere it can be said that British farming is abreast of other industrial operations in respect of progress in improved ways of working, as well as in the characters and habits of thought of agriculturists as a body, still the progress made in tillage and in breeding in late years redounds greatly to the credit of the farmer, and cannot fail to benefit not only him but the whole community.

Perhaps the most notable instance of advancement in the bucolic world of late years is the establishment of Chambers of Agriculture, and their rapid development all over the kingdom. Men engaged in trade had established and successfully worked Chambers of Commerce years before the kindred institutions—Chambers of Agriculture—obtained a footing; now there is scarcely a county in England and Scotland that does not boast its Chamber of Agriculture, at the meetings of which almost every topic bearing directly or indirectly on rural pursuits and rural interests

is discussed. These institutions have a central organisation, regular staffs of officers, stated times of meeting, fixed rules for the discussion of previously-arranged themes, and even an ably-conducted special organ in the press. The old "farmers' club," with its slow methods of action, and rules limiting debate to a given class of subjects, is now practically superseded; and local agricultural parliaments have sprung up in almost every corner of the country. This, we repeat, is a pleasing and promising sign of the times; and we hope that Chambers of Agriculture may continue to prosper and multiply.

Local taxation, its incidence, effects, and management, appears to be the topic that more especially engages the attention of the members of these bodies just at present; and certainly few subjects could be more deeply interesting, not merely to agriculturists, but to the community at large. The sums raised annually under this head are enormous; and it is doubtful whether they are either levied upon fair principles or expended in a thoroughly judicious way. But, be that as it may, this much is certain, that discussion on the subject, in both its branches, must produce good effects; for, whether the existing system of managing county funds be wise or not, it is only fair that all who contribute to them should have a voice in their disposal. The demand for the formation of provincial boards of finance, therefore, in which all orders of ratepayers shall be represented, is at



THE NEW PRUSSIAN IRON-CLAD SHIP OF WAR KING WILLIAM.



once reasonable in itself and desirable as a means of conciliation among different orders of society; and we are glad to perceive that there is a growing disposition among those in whom the management of county funds is at present vested to concede to the ratepayers generally a share of the power, and, as a corollary, of the responsibility, that attach to the position they occupy.

The propriety of extending the area both of taxation and disbursement, so as to equalise and adjust the incidence of local imposts and to economise in the expenditure of the funds raised, is also a theme that merits, and to some extent is receiving, the attention of Chambers of Agriculture. The artificial, and in many cases merely ideal, lines that divide counties and parishes, however convenient such divisions may have been once, are practically abrogated now, and serve only to render possible unequal burdens, to forward private and selfish ends, and to enable offenders to defeat justice by removing from one jurisdiction to another.

By retaining the parish as the unit of assessment unscrupulous proprietors are enabled in numerous instances to escape the burden of poor rates altogether, by simply pulling down, or neglecting to build, cottages for their labourers on the spot where their services are rendered, and thus compelling them to find dwellings in neighbouring parishes that do not happen to be all owned by one individual, or by two or three who in this matter act in concert. By this system the poor are made to herd with the poor, by whom they have to be maintained when no longer able to toil for their own subsistence; while the rich, who have profited by their services while in vigour, are relieved of the burden of keeping them when decayed. This is most unjust, and, as we have aforetime pointed out, is in direct violation of the essential principle of a poor law—namely, that those who have riches should spare of their abundance for the sustentation of their brethren who are in want. Extended areas of taxation would at least partially correct this among other abuses, and ought to be adopted, whether or not we be yet ripe for a general system of rating, or, indeed, whether or not such a system be in itself desirable.

Continuing the county, again, as the unit of magisterial and police jurisdiction is only of advantage to criminals, who, by moving out of one county into another—by crossing a streamlet here, there an ideal line—can snap their fingers in the policeman's face and defy him to touch them. By extending the area of jurisdiction—by rendering it, in short, imperial instead of being limited to counties—the officers of justice could track offenders in all their shiftings and dodgings, apprehend them wherever they might take refuge, and have them adjudicated upon in the most convenient and expeditious, and therefore the most economical and effective, manner. The existing system is both costly and inefficient for the detection and repression of crime; and the sooner, therefore, that it is reformed the better. For these reasons, we are glad that extension of area of rating and jurisdiction is among the subjects engaging the attention of the Chambers of Agriculture, the members of which may do the country yeoman service by thoroughly ventilating the topic.

May we venture to suggest for the consideration of our new provincial parliaments two other themes, which have a special interest for their members? The one is the utilisation of town sewage, and the best means of applying it to the soil; and the other is the storing of the rainfall of winter with a view to its employment for irrigation purposes in summer. Into the merits of these vitally important topics—more particularly of vital importance to agriculturists—we cannot enter in detail now, but we would recommend them to the careful consideration of members of Chambers of Agriculture, into whose province they naturally fall. The utilisation of sewage has already received some discussion, though not from agriculturists; but the topic merits more. As for rain-storage, it has scarcely been mooted; though the phenomena of last summer and this winter have rendered its importance more than usually prominent. The summer of 1868 was marked by a protracted, parching drought, during which vegetation was burned up, cattle perished for lack of water, and hay, turnip, and other crops were all but *nil* from want of moisture; while the end of the year was distinguished by an unusually liberal rainfall. Now, what we wish to suggest is this, that the plenteous moisture of the one period of a year should be stored up in reservoirs for use during the dry portion of another; and sure we are that the members of Chambers of Agriculture and their friends, if they devote attention to the matter, will be able to devise means of accomplishing this most desirable object, by the construction of artificial lakes in suitable places, or otherwise, as may be found most advisable.

#### THE PRUSSIAN IRONCLAD KING WILLIAM.

NEARLY twelve months ago we published an engraving and a description of the iron-clad frigate King William, then in course of construction in the Thames for the Prussian Government. The vessel, one of the most formidable war ships afloat, has now been finished, and our present engraving represents her as she lies in dock and almost ready to go to sea.

The length of this formidable craft is 365 ft., 15 ft. shorter than the Warrior; but her breadth is 2 ft. greater, being 60 ft., against the Warrior's 58 ft. This gives her a greater midship section, and therefore enables her to bear her ponderous armour more easily by giving her a greater displacement; but, on the other hand, this same displacement makes it more difficult to move her through the water at a high speed, especially as the King William is of 6000 tons burden, and draws at her mean draught-load no less than 26 ft. of water. The engines, however, are expected to be equal to their work. They have been made by Messrs. Maudslays, and are of 1150-horse power nominal, and capable of working up to a power of 7000 horses. With this power, and guided by the ordinary calculations, it is believed she will realise from thirteen to fourteen knots an hour. There

will be no less than forty furnaces required to keep her going at full speed, and these will use rather more than eighty tons of coal a day, while her coal-bunkers only hold 700 tons. In this respect she is certainly inferior to our Warrior class of ships, which only use sixty-five tons a day, and can carry 1000 tons, so that, with careful firing and proper husbandry of fuel, they can easily keep the sea under steam for twenty days, or very nearly double the time which the King William could remain out of harbour without coaling. There is nothing very peculiar in the principle of construction of this frigate beyond that she is built with all the improvements and modifications which experience in armour-clads can suggest as desirable. Her construction is on what is called the longitudinal system—that is, a series of most powerful wrought-iron girders, or frames, laid at intervals of 7 ft. apart, and passing along her completely from stem to stern. Between these frames the wrought-iron ribs are bolted, below the water-line, at intervals of 4 ft. apart; but above it, and behind the armour, they are bolted as close as to be within 2 ft. of each other. Within both frames and ribs comes another iron skin an inch thick, so as to literally make a double ship, the inner one being 4½ ft. apart from the outer. Side passages, or wings as they are called, running the whole length of the structure, continue this double form up to the main deck. The inner side of these wings forms the walls of the coal-bunkers, so that even were it possible for a shot to pass through the armoured sides of the King William it would still have to penetrate the iron coal-bunkers and pass through 8 ft. of coal before it could do any mischief to the fighting crew of the ship. The armour is 8 in. thick amidships, tapering gradually downwards to a thickness of 7 in. at 7 ft. below the water-line. It also tapers off in the same manner towards the bow and stern, diminishing from 8 in. to 6 in., and then to 4 in. The latter thickness, however, is only used in places where it is almost impossible a shot could strike—such as under the counter or under the bows. Wherever it is probable a shot could strike there is never less than 6 in. of armour, and nearly always 8 in., with a powerful 10-in. teak backing and double iron skin. Just aft of the bowsprit and just forward of the stern two immense bulkheads, each of 6-in. armour and 18 in. of teak, are continued from the lower deck up through the maindeck, and rise to the height of 7 ft. above the spardeck. On this spardeck these ponderous protections are curved into the form of slightly semicircular shields, each pierced with four portholes for cannon and loopholes for musketry. Within these shields are to be carried four 300-pounders, which can be used to fire straight fore and aft or as broadside guns. Except the men protected by these shields, the ship, on going into action, would not have a man upon her spardeck. When we say that the maindeck is of iron half an inch thick, and the spardeck of the toughest steel half an inch thick, that she is to be fitted with cupola-furnaces for heating red-hot shot and filling shells with molten iron, and that, though only ship-rigged, she will carry a crew of 700 men, we have said quite enough to indicate the tremendous powers of this great ship.

The history of this magnificent frigate is rather peculiar. About four years ago the Turkish Government wished for an ironclad that should eclipse all other ironclads afloat, and be of herself a match in fair fight for almost a squadron of them. She was to be larger, stronger, faster, and, above all, to carry heavier armour and heavier armament than anything yet attempted. These difficult conditions Mr. Reed, with the consent of the Admiralty, succeeded in combining; and the vessel was begun at the Thames Ironworks, and rapidly pushed forward. Unfortunately, however, for the Turkish Government, its promises of payment kept no sort of pace with the work done, and, payment at last altogether failing, the frigate was left on the hands of the Thames Company to dispose of as they could. It was at once offered to our Admiralty at the price the Sultan had agreed to give for it. But the Admiralty, while admitting the surpassing excellence and strength of the vessel, hesitated about the purchase, required time to think about it, would rather wait a little, and so on. The Thames Company did not like waiting, and offered it to the Prussian Government, which instantly replied by an offer to buy it at a sum considerably higher than that at which it had been offered to the Admiralty. This tender, if we may so call it, was taken; but hardly had the contracts been signed when the Admiralty appeared on the scene and wished to purchase the frigate without further delay. But it was then too late. The agreement with the Prussian Government had been made, and there was no retracting. Thus one of the strongest-plated armour-ships yet built passed into the hands of a foreign Power; and we may possibly some day see her arrayed against our own frigates. We betide any of our vessels of the Warrior or Minotaur class which shall meet her! The Warrior carries 4½-in. armour over half her length, and is meant to bear twenty-six guns—some only 68-pounders, some 100-pounders, and four 150-pounders. The King William, which is as large as the Warrior, and is designed to have her speed, carries 8-in. armour, with a battery of twenty-six 300-pounders, all of Krupp's steel, all breech-loaders, and capable, it is said, of being fired with 75-lb. charges as often as twice in a minute.

MR. LOWE AT GLOUCESTER.—On Wednesday night there was a great Liberal demonstration in Gloucester, at which the local victories of the party at the recent elections were celebrated by a banquet. Earl Ducie, Lord Lieutenant of the county, presided, and amongst the guests of the evening was the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The right hon. gentleman, in responding to the toast of his health, spoke at some length on the efforts of the new Government in the direction of economy. He expressed his approval of the policy which had been inaugurated by Mr. Cardwell and Mr. Childers—a policy which embodied the principle of concentration both in the Army and the Navy. He expressed his determination to keep a strict watch upon the national expenditure, but doubted whether the cost of the Abyssinian expedition would permit him to do more than assure them that every exertion should be made to lighten the burden of taxation. On the Irish question, Mr. Lowe said that, having separated the Church from the State, the Government would leave the former to determine in the best manner its own future destinies.

ELECTION PETITIONS.—During the height of the election excitement in July, 1865, when the Liberals were winning both counties and boroughs, Mr. Disraeli, in addressing a Buckinghamshire audience, counselled the Conservatives for their losses by telling them that "There are such things as petitions!" Both parties could just now indorse the truth of this assertion of the ex-Premier. Still, during the fortnight which has elapsed since the opening of the first election inquiry, the balance of advantage has been unmistakably with the Liberal party. The petitions against the return of the Liberal members for Guildford, Limerick, and Windsor have failed; while two Conservatives—Sir R. Glass, at Bewdley, and Sir H. Stracey, at Norwich—have been unseated for bribery and treating through their agents. No Liberal has yet lost his seat for bribery. Mr. Whitworth was declared not duly elected at Drogheda for intimidation; while at Wexford Mr. Devereux was unseated through an informality on the part of the returning officer, which does not prevent the hon. gentleman from again and at once seeking the suffrages of the electors. At Carrickfergus Mr. Dalway, who wrested the seat from Mr. Torrens, a Conservative, was declared duly elected.

GOLD-DIGGINGS IN SUTHERLANDSHIRE.—Gold-diggings on British soil, within the circuit of the four seas, is an announcement which has rather an alarming sound. To find gold instead of earning it, and to get rich without labour, is the dream of all the idle spirits of a nation; but when the vision looms into an appearance of reality, even the foundations of solid labour are apt to be disturbed. Fortunately, however, such promises are still as far off as the antipodes, or the Pacific coast of the American continent. Gold has certainly been discovered in Sutherlandshire, within 700 miles of the metropolis, and the rumour has already gathered a motley group of diggers, who are braving the rigours of that northern climate in the hope of sudden wealth. Hitherto, however, they seem to have earned a good deal less than is to be gained by ordinary industry. They stand in the cold stream from morning till night—men, women, and children—digging in the mud upon the banks, and washing it in the river to get the glittering grains, braving hunger and frost all day and sleeping in the open air at night, and all this for less than they were earning quietly at home. One man left work at which he was getting 30s. a week, walked every day ten miles to the diggings, worked at them during the short daylight of that latitude, and walked ten miles home at night, and all that he had earned amounted to 2s. 4d. a week; so that gold-digging will not yet disturb the regular round of settled industry in Great Britain. It is very probable that these Sutherlandshire diggings will pay for working; but it is evidently better worth while to stay and pick up the crumbs at home than to be attracted to the far north by the glitter of gold-dust or the chance of nuggets.

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Legislative Body the motion of M. Paul Bethmont, to question the Government respecting the recent disturbances in the Ile de la Réunion, came on for discussion. M. Jules Simon urged the modification of the colonial Constitution. M. Rigault de Genouilly, the Minister of Marine, replied on behalf of the Government, and stated that the authorities of the island had been insulted, and that the troops were obliged to enforce respect for the laws. The Minister's speech was much cheered, and the simple order of the day was agreed to by 195 votes against 22.

The French Yellow Book, published last Saturday, contains 268 pages of documents relative to Spain, Italy, Servia, Roumania, the European Commission respecting the improvements of the mouth of the Danube, the affairs in the Lebanon, the difficulty between France and Tunis, the negotiations of Spain with the Republics of the Pacific, the relations with Japan, and the Military Conference held at St. Petersburg. The documents relating to Turkey and Greece will appear later. Relative to Italy, the Yellow Book contains despatches sent by General Menabrea to the Chevalier Nigra, Italian Minister at Paris, on Jan. 21, 1868, by the Marquis de Monistier to M. de Malaret, French Minister at Florence, on March 19; and also a despatch of General Menabrea, dated Aug. 22; and one from M. de Monistier, dated Oct. 31. In this last despatch the French Minister for Foreign Affairs says:—"France wishes to withdraw her troops from Rome; but the hostile projects which continue to be entertained against the Pope do not permit us yet to act according to our desire. We will take into consideration the *modus vivendi* proposed by General Menabrea, and will endeavour to show to the Court of Rome the advantages it may derive therefrom."

### BELGIUM.

Death has at length put an end to the sufferings of the Prince Royal of Belgium. The Prince died shortly after one o'clock on Friday morning, Jan. 22. He was born on June 12, 1859, and had not, therefore, completed his tenth year. The death of the Prince Royal, though long expected, seems to have produced a most painful impression in Belgium. The *Indépendance Belge* reaches us surrounded with a deep black border, and it devotes a long article to the mournful occurrence, expressing the sympathy of the nation with the bereaved parents. Directly the news reached Brussels a large number of shops and offices closed their shutters; in the evening all the theatres were shut, and a concert which was to have been given at the Conservatoire was indefinitely postponed. The Count of Flanders is now the heir to the throne, and he is without children. Upon hearing of the death of the Prince Royal of Belgium the Emperor Napoleon at once sent a letter to the King of the Belgians, in which he expressed, in his own name and that of the Empress, the deepest sympathy with the sad loss the Belgian Royal family has sustained. The funeral of the young Prince took place at Brussels on Monday, the King and the Count of Flanders being present at the ceremony. The Archbishop of Malines performed the service. A very large number of spectators were present, and much sorrow was everywhere exhibited. A solemn funeral service was held on Wednesday at the cathedral in honour of the Prince Royal, at which all the different bodies of the State were present. The King did not attend, but the Count of Flanders was present, and an immense crowd assembled. The Archbishop of Malines officiated.

### ITALY.

The Italian Government have gained a triumph on the question of the grist tax and the disturbances to which the attempt to enforce it gave rise. On Tuesday the debate, which had lasted for some days, was brought to a close, and the House passed to the order of the day by 207 votes against 157. Baron Ricasoli moved the resolution. A modified vote of censure had previously been supported by Signor Rattazzi. A resolution moved by Signor Torrigiani was afterwards adopted requesting the Government to institute an inquiry into the recent disturbances in the central provinces, and to propose such measures as they may consider most expedient under the circumstances.

### SPAIN.

The civil governor of Burgos was assassinated by a mob of priests within the cathedral on Monday morning. A state of siege has been proclaimed at Burgos, and above fifty persons have been arrested. The motive of the assassination is made clear by the announcement that the Provisional Government have issued a decree taking possession of the archives, libraries, and collections of art in the cathedrals, churches, and monasteries, which will be considered henceforth as national property. It was when he was proceeding to take an inventory of the art-treasures belonging to the cathedral of Burgos that the governor was murdered. The perpetration of this crime has already led to serious results. In Madrid the people, excited by the news and by the refusal of the Pope to recognise the Spanish envoy at Rome, assembled in great numbers outside the palace of the Papal Nuncio, tore down the Papal arms and burnt them, shouting as they did so, "Down with the Nuncio!" and "Freedom for ever!" They then went to the Minister of Public Worship, demanded the immediate removal of the Nuncio, and were told that the salary formerly paid to him by Spain had been suppressed and the powers granted to him withdrawn. Additional intelligence from Burgos brings into still stronger light the horrible nature of the crime committed there. Although the members of the chapter saw the assassination they took no steps to prevent it, and afterwards allowed the body to be dragged about in the most barbarous manner. The Dean of the cathedral and several canons are among the persons arrested. Throughout all Spain great indignation has been aroused by this shocking deed.

### PRUSSIA.

The editors and journalists of Berlin have adopted, upon the suggestion of Herr Berthold Auerbach, an address to General Grant, to be presented to him upon his assuming the office of President of the United States, requesting him to take the initiative in a bill for the mutual protection of literary and artistic property in America and Germany. The various literary societies of Germany have also been invited to unite with the Berlin editors in this matter.

### RUSSIA.

The Russians in St. Petersburg are showing their sympathy for the Greeks by sending large sums to the Hellenic committees at Athens. On the 12th, at a ball given by one of the principal bankers of the town, two collections were made among the guests; one for the poor, and the other for the Hellenes. The first produced 950 roubles, the second 3580 roubles, and the latter sum was at once dispatched to Athens, the police making no objection. Five young Greeks employed in merchants' offices at St. Petersburg having declared their intention of returning to their country to serve as volunteers in the Greek army, a subscription was opened to provide them with the necessary outfit, and 1500 roubles were collected in a few days.

### TURKEY AND GREECE.

Count Charles Walewski left Marseilles on Sunday to convey the declaration of the Powers to the Greek Government. It is not yet known what course the Greek Government intends to pursue. According to the Vienna Press, the Turkish Government has sent a circular to its representatives abroad expressing satisfaction at the result of the Conference, and stating that it does not wish to press each point of its ultimatum now that the action of Greece has been condemned by the Powers. It considers, in fact, the purpose of its ultimatum to be accomplished.

The Porte is preparing the publication of the Redbook, which will contain about seventy despatches relative to the Turco-Greek difficulty. The *Turquie* of Wednesday contradicts news published by local papers announcing the departure of Robert Palmer from



The Turkish Government has suspended the expulsion of Hellenic subjects from Ottoman territory pending the reply of the declaration drawn up at the Conference. *The Independent Times*, a Turkish organ, published in Constantinople, states that the latest advices from Crete announced the surrender of Petropoulaki and several native chiefs, who were about to land on board a French steamer. "The insurrection, it is considered to be extinct." The "President of the Provisional Government of Crete," M. Constantine Voloudaki, writes, meanwhile, to the *Paris Siecle*, and emphatically declares, in reply to sympathetic questioners, that his countrymen will never again submit to the Sultan, even though reforms and concessions may be granted to them. He affirms that they can never forget the massacre of their wives and children and old people by the Pacha and Omer Pacha, and that they will fight to the last man in order to be united to Greece, from which no human force will ever be able to separate them. M. Constantine Voloudaki concludes at the close of his letter that he is entrusted with a mission to the United States, and that the determination of the Cretans is connected with it.

#### ROUMANIA.

The Roumanian Government having urged on the proceedings against the former leaders of the bands which attempted to invade Rumania last summer, their trial has now been concluded, and they have been condemned to six months' imprisonment. It is believed that this sentence will have the effect of greatly discouraging similar undertakings in future. The Minister of the Interior has addressed a circular to the Prefects enjoining them scrupulously to watch over the maintenance of order and to prevent any agitation which might compromise the neutrality of the country in the event of an armed conflict between Turkey and Greece.

#### THE UNITED STATES.

Congress has passed a bill to provide for the removal of all civil cases in Virginia, Mississippi, and Texas who find themselves unable to take the oaths of office prescribed by the Reconstruction Act.

#### BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY.

The steamer *Hipparchus*, arrived at Liverpool, brings dates from Buenos Ayres to the 27th ult. and Rio to the 4th inst. *Angustura* was attacked on the 21st and 22nd ult., and was reported to have been captured. Lopez escaped with 500 followers, the Argentine forces in pursuit.

#### INDIA.

It is authoritatively announced that Azim Khan and Abdul Rahman Khan have arrived at Dour, and requested an asylum in British territory. The Government of the Punjab have consented conditionally to their request.

Meer Haje, the murderer of Captain Douglas and of other persons in the mutiny of 1857, has been hanged at Delhi. It is stated that 50,000 cattle have perished near Delhi for want of fodder.

The construction of a permanent road bridge over the Hooghly has been officially sanctioned.

The report of the crops in the central provinces is more favourable.

#### NEW ZEALAND.

The New Zealand papers confirm the news already received by telegraph of the massacre of settlers in Poverty Bay. The occurrence took place on Nov. 11. In the first telegrams published it was stated that fifty families had been killed. From the detailed accounts now to hand it would seem that such was not the case. The total number of persons killed and wounded is said to be fifty-four, including twenty friendly Maories. The victims were surprised just before dawn, and seem in some cases to have been terribly disfigured by the wounds they received. One woman is said to have been discovered with a portion of her clothes burnt, and the pigs running at the body. The outrages are believed to have been committed by the Maori convicts who escaped from Chatham Island some few months ago. About a fortnight after the massacre—viz., on Nov. 23—an engagement took place at Poverty Bay, in which more than twenty Maories were killed, the loss on the other side being confined to four friendly natives killed and twelve wounded. A telegram has been received at the Colonial Office, from the Governor of New Zealand, containing the announcement that the rebels on the east coast, who perpetrated the dreadful massacre at Poverty Bay, have been defeated in two engagements, with great loss. The Governor adds that it is intended as soon as possible to concentrate the greater part of the colonial forces on the west coast, with the object of putting down the rebellion in that quarter.

#### RITUALISM AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH, ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

EVERYONE of the observances condemned, not only by the Judicial Committee of Privy Council, but by Sir Robert Phillimore, the Dean of Arches, whose court many of the less ardent Ritualists admit to be in some sense a Church court, was practised on Sunday morning at the Church of St. Peter, St. George's-in-the-East, and some other practices were added which have never been observed in Ritualistic churches hitherto, although a very diligent student may, perhaps, find them based upon recommendations in Dr. F. G. Leach's *Directorium Anglicanum*. St. Peter's is a new district of the far-famed parish of St. George's-in-the-East where Ritualism first took its many years ago. Since then the Rev. Bryan King, who was the Rector at that time, has gone; but the Ritualism which tried to make its home there in years gone by has found a congenial abode in a new church, dedicated to St. Peter, erected in Old London, within a few yards of the junction of the parish with that of Wapping; and, so far from there being any opposition or protest, the church is filled every Sunday (and at weekly services, too) with persons who seem heartily to appreciate forms and ceremonies of which the old preachers at St. George's were the feeblest type. The Rev. C. F. Lowder, the Incumbent, who stated the other day, at the great Ritualistic meeting at Freemasons' Hall, that he would on no consideration put out his altar lights in obedience to the judgment of the Judicial Committee, in the case of *Alaric v. Mackonochie*, has adhered strictly to his threat; and Sunday's services were, perhaps, more elaborately Ritualistic than those of any other church in London. Mr. Lowder, who, in the official documents connected with the church is styled "The Father Superior," was absent on account of ill-health; but his duties were well sustained by the Rev. F. K. Statham, Theological Associate of King's College, London, and the Rev. Mr. Anstiss. There were plain altars at half-past ten, and these lasted, as usual, until a little past eleven, when the clergy and choir retired, and the main body of what afterwards formed the congregation entered. When all were seated the notes of the organ indicated another service, and a procession entered the church from the north side of the altar—moving, however, along the aisles of the church, but turning at once sharp round to the altar steps, the altar itself being raised to an immense height. Prior to the entrance of the procession an immense lighted six large candles on the high altar, and two smaller ones on the credence or re-table. The head of the procession was a young man carrying incense in a swinging censer, the bearer of a large silver cross. They were vested in red robes with short surplices, and accompanied by two little boys dressed in the same way. They were followed by twenty ministers in surplices, and then came the bearer of another silver cross, which he held on high, heralding Mr. Anstiss, who was to be the celebrant, and who wore purple Eucharistic vestments, and a biretta, after the fashion of Roman Catholic priests. As the celebrant priest ascended the altar clouds of incense rose on all sides, and it was difficult to see what was going on. Presently, however, it was seen that the priest himself was swinging the censer, and that he was swinging the altar, books, choristers, and everything around him. There was nothing else very remarkable about the service until the priest came to the Epistle of the day, which he read on the

south side of the altar, a little boy standing before him with the book uplifted and resting on his head. The Gospel was read in the same extraordinary way from the north side of the altar. Then came the consecration prayer, which is now the crucial test; and in this respect certainly the service of St. Peter's was very extraordinary indeed. As the celebrant stood before the altar, the two little boys advanced to the credence, or re-table, and each taking one of the candles which had been placed upon it, walked down two or three steps of the altar, knelt behind the priest, and held up the two small candles, while the six larger ones were burning on the high altar before him. On the celebrant coming to the part of the prayer which provides for the consecration of the bread, he elevated the paten, and then knelt down. While in this position the church bell tolled. At the conclusion of the prayer providing for the consecration of the wine he lifted the eup; then he knelt down, and again the church bell tolled. Then the little boys replaced their small candles on the re-table. Although the church was well filled, and all stayed during the administration, none of the choir appeared to go up to partake of the holy communion, and from the body of the church only two very poor, feeble old men—not a single woman—a circumstance which was perhaps scarcely ever known in a Ritualistic church before. The service was brought to a close in the usual way. The sermon was preached by Mr. Statham, from the words of St. Matthew's Gospel, "Many are called, but few are chosen;" but there was nothing in it to call for any remark, except, perhaps, its great earnestness and sincerity.

#### AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

The following report has been presented to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade:—

My Lords,—I have the honour to submit to your Lordships the Agricultural Returns of Great Britain for the year 1868, collected, as in the previous year, from all occupiers of land and owners of live stock. The duty of distributing and collecting forms for obtaining the requisite information, and of tabulating the same for counties, was again intrusted to officers of the Inland Revenue department. The returns for the year 1867 are also printed, in order to afford a comparison of results in the two years.

A summary of the returns, so far as related to the acreage under the chief crops, potatoes, and the total number of cattle and sheep, was made up at the earliest practicable date, and sent for publication to the London newspapers on Sept. 19 last.

An earlier announcement of the like results could in future be made should the forms be sooner returned by the occupiers of land to the collecting officers. As the forms are issued stamped for free transmission by post, a ready means for the early return of the forms by the occupiers is afforded by the Post Office. In many cases where the forms are not so returned considerable delay is occasioned by the officers having to make personal application at houses situated at some distance from their own residences.

I regret that the returns in detail have not been issued earlier, but time is required by this department to complete the grouping and classes of crops, to compute percentage proportions, and for a careful comparison of relative numbers as a test of accuracy. In cases of doubt inquiries have to be addressed to the local officers in different parts of the country.

With respect to the collection of the returns for the present year, several of the officers employed have reported that the necessary information has been more readily afforded, and that more care has been taken to state the actual acreage and number of live stock.

The practice of entering exact figures in the forms issued to occupiers of land will, no doubt, become more general, year by year, as the object and scope of the returns are better understood.

At present there is reason to believe that the number of live stock in some counties is understated, but probably not to any important extent.

The present is the third year as regards the acreage of crops, and the second as regards live stock, for which the returns have been collected in Great Britain at the same period of the year.

In the tables for the present year corrected figures are given for the number of returns obtained from occupiers of land in 1867. As separate returns are made by occupiers having separate farms in two or more parishes, the number of returns obtained may be considered as nearly representing the number of separate occupancies or holdings.

The first two tables show abstracts of the agricultural returns for each division of the United Kingdom, the figures for Ireland being taken from the returns issued by the Registrar-General in Dublin.

The total number of acres returned as under all kinds of crop, bare fallow, and grass, in the United Kingdom in 1868 was 45,652,000, which is 265,000 in excess of the total in 1867, and 1,307,000 in excess of the total in 1866. The large increase in 1868, as compared with 1866, is, however, chiefly owing to the increased acreage of permanent pasture returned in Great Britain in 1867 and 1868 under a more comprehensive heading in the forms used for collecting the returns.

Of the total number of 45,652,000 acres, returned for the United Kingdom in 1868, 11,659,000 were under corn crops; 4,865,000 under green crops; 984,000 were under bare fallow; 5,690,000 under clover and other rotation grasses; and 22,164,000, or nearly one half of the total acreage returned, were under permanent pasture.

The proportion of permanent pasture varies considerably in the different divisions of the kingdom. The abstract tables show that the proportion of permanent pasture to the total acreage returned was 48 in every 100 acres in the United Kingdom, 42 in England, 56 in Wales, 23 in Scotland, and 64 in Ireland.

The acreage returned in 1868 as under bare fallow or uncropped arable land amounts to 988,000 acres for Great Britain, and to 24,000 acres for Ireland. In Great Britain the proportion of bare fallow to the total acreage returned is 3 in every 100 acres; but it is 5½ to every 100 acres under corn, green, and rotation grass crops, and 7½ to every 100 acres of corn and green crops only.

There is reason for believing that in parts of Great Britain land capable of cultivation, but lying waste or untitled, is erroneously returned under the heading of "Bare Fallow or Uncropped Arable Land."

The aggregate acreage under corn and green crops in the United Kingdom in 1868, as compared with 1867, shows the following results:—Corn crops, an increase of 227,000 acres; and green crops, exclusive of potatoes, a decrease of 170,000 acres. The acreage under potatoes is larger in 1868 than in 1867 by 84,000 acres, of which 50,000 acres were in Great Britain and 34,000 in Ireland.

The acreage under wheat is larger in 1868 than in 1867 in each division of the kingdom, the total increase amounting to 310,000 acres.

The acreage under barley in 1868, compared with 1867, shows a falling off in England to the extent of 112,000 acres; but, as there is an increase of 400 acres under barley in Wales and Scotland, and of 16,000 acres in Ireland, the actual decrease of acreage under that crop in the United Kingdom in 1868 amounts to 92,000 acres.

In the acreage under oats there is an increase in the United Kingdom of 48,000 acres in 1868 over 1867, the chief part of the increase, 40,000 acres, occurring in Ireland, England showing a decrease of 18,000, and Wales and Scotland an increase of 24,000.

The acreage under each kind of green crop (except potatoes) is generally lower in each division of the United Kingdom in 1868 than in 1867. The decrease in the kingdom in 1868 is 24,000 acres under turnips, 9000 acres under mangolds, 12,000 acres under cabbages, kohlrabi, and rape; and as much as 122,000 acres under vetches, lucerne, &c.

The acreage under flax in Great Britain is distinguished for the first time in the returns for 1868. There were under that crop 15,828 acres in England, 169 in Wales, and 1546 in Scotland. The acreage under flax in Ireland in 1868 was 206,446.

A marked advance is shown in the number of cattle and sheep in 1868 over 1867. In the United Kingdom the total increase in cattle amounts to 332,000. In Great Britain the increase is as much as 430,000; but there is a decrease of 82,000 in Ireland, not accounted for by an increase in the exports of cattle to Great Britain.

The number of sheep in the United Kingdom is larger in 1868 than in 1867 by 1,790,000. The increase may be said to have occurred exclusively in Great Britain, the number of sheep in Ireland showing scarcely any difference in the two years.

As regards pigs, a kind of stock discouraged by the high prices of food, there is a decrease in the number in 1868 compared with 1867 to the extent of 1,632,000 for the United Kingdom. The chief part of the reduction is in Great Britain, where the number is less by 638,000. In Ireland there is a decrease of 371,000.

The general tables exhibit the relative agricultural condition of the several counties in England, Wales, and Scotland. In Table No. 3 the percentages of corn crops to the total acreage returned, and the proportionate number of live stock to every one hundred acres under crop, show variations that may be noticed with local and general interest.

The counties may be arranged with a view to various results; but there are two groups of acknowledged importance and interest—the grazing and corn-growing counties. Mr. Caird, in his published volume of "Letters upon English Agriculture," gives an outline map of England, with a line of division running from north to south to distinguish the corn and grazing counties. Following this plan, but with some little variation suggested by the proportion of corn crops to the total acreage under cultivation, as ascertained by the agricultural returns, the following table has been prepared to show the chief results of such a division of the English counties.

The counties are arranged, as far as practicable, geographically from north to south. In the two divisions the number of counties is the same.

and the total of the acreage returned is not very different. The percentage proportions of corn crops to the total acreage returned in each county are shown in Table No. 3, and it will be observed that in the grazing counties the proportion of corn crops is as low as 10 per cent and not higher than 33 per cent; but in the corn-growing counties the proportion of corn crops ranges between 33 and 55 per cent.

As regards the number of the live stock in the two divisions, it must be recollected that the figures relate to the stock returned as in the possession of the occupiers of land and owners of live stock upon June 25.

GRAZING COUNTIES.—Northumberland, Cumberland, Durham, Westmorland, York (North and West Riding), Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Stafford, Leicester, Salop, Worcester, Hereford, Monmouth, Gloucester, Wilts, Dorset, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall.

CORN-GROWING COUNTIES.—York (East Riding), Lincoln, Nottingham, Rutland, Huntingdon, Warwick, Northampton, Cambridge, Norfolk, Suffolk, Bedford, Bucks, Oxford, Berks, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, Sussex.

Acreage under crops, bare fallow and grass .. .. .		Grazing Counties.	Corn Counties.
Acreage under wheat .. .. .		12,109,000 ..	10,929,000 ..
(or 10 per cent of total acreage).		1,286,000 ..	2,111,000 ..
Acreage under permanent pasture .. .. .		6,363,000 ..	3,341,000 ..
(or 52 per cent of total acreage).		2,484,000 ..	1,295,000 ..
Total number of cattle returned .. .. .		2,484,000 ..	1,295,000 ..
(or 66 per cent of total number in England).		10,638,000 ..	10,292,000 ..
Total number of sheep returned .. .. .		10,638,000 ..	10,292,000 ..
(or 51 per cent of total number in England).			

An increased interest may be taken in returns relating to the agriculture of the country if the annual addition to the total number of consumers of food in Great Britain be considered. In round numbers, about 210,000 persons are annually added to the resident population in Great Britain. The additional wheat supply required for that number, at an average of six bushels per head, amounts to nearly 180,000 quarters, which, at an English average yield of twenty-eight bushels per acre, represents the produce of upwards of 50,000 acres, and of a much larger acreage at a lower rate of production.

Returns relating to the crops and to the number of live stock in British possessions and foreign countries, so far as can be obtained, will be found at the end of the returns for Great Britain.

Later returns than those published last year have been obligingly furnished by the statistical departments in the respective countries, for Sweden, Prussia, Württemberg, France, and some additional particulars have been supplied for Norway and Holland. The returns recently collected in Belgium are not yet complete. Agricultural returns have not as yet been obtained in Switzerland nor Italy; and not for a recent period in Austria, Spain, or Russia. For the United States the particulars published last year are again given, as complete returns for this year have not been at present obtained by the Agricultural Department in that country.

The information received respecting agriculture in foreign countries, stated in English measures, is arranged to afford a comparison of the agricultural resources of this and other nations. Many international interests will be benefited when more exact comparisons can be made of the food-producing capabilities of different countries. Estimate returns can only be considered as affording approximate results.

I have the honour to be, my Lords, your Lordships' most obedient servant,

A. W. FONBLANQUE.

Statistical Department, Board of Trade, Whitehall, Dec., 1868.

THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY'S ALMANACK for 1869 is a pretty little book, tastefully got up, with a variety of information, principally, of course, on insurance matters. It has neatly ruled spaces for private memoranda, and obituaries of the late manager and founder of the company, Mr. Percy M. Dove, and of Lord Brougham.

THE BOATS OF THE HIBERNIA STEAMER.—It would appear that there is now little hope that the boats of the steamer *Hibernia* have been found. It will be remembered that some time since news was received that thirty-nine shipwrecked seamen of the *Hibernia* were on board the *America*, a Bremen barque, outward bound to New York. It now appears that these shipwrecked persons did not belong to the steamer *Hibernia*, but partly to a sailing vessel of that name, and to another called the *Cuthberts*. The sailing-vessel *Hibernia* left Quebec on Nov. 10, was wrecked and abandoned, the crew being taken on board a passing vessel called the *Cuthberts*. Bad weather continued, and the *Cuthberts* being in a sinking state her signals were seen by the *America*, into which the united crews managed to get when the *Cuthberts* went down.

LOST ON THE MOUNTAINS.—An almost tragic event has recently taken place at Brynmawr, in the extremity of the western range of hills which divide the county of Monmouth, and on the borders of Breconshire. Two children, sisters, of the respective tender ages of six and three, were missed from their homes one evening, and despite every possible search and inquiry they could not be found, and the sorrowful relatives and friends came to the conclusion that they must have met with some disaster. The search was continued the next day, and at length, a short distance up the mountain, the two little ones were discovered, and the spectacle witnessed by the party engaged in the search was at once tragic and thrilling. The two children were lovingly entwined in each other's arms, as if in the "sleep of death," and to all appearance the vital spark had departed. It was, however, discovered that the bodies were still warm, and medical aid being at once procured, consciousness was soon restored. The little ones appeared to know but little as to how they passed the time since leaving their home, except that they lost themselves on the mountain, and not being to find their way back they sat down and fell asleep in one another's arms, in which position they must have remained for the long period of twenty-four hours.

#### THE HOTEL BASILEWSKI, PARIS.

In our last week's Number we published an Engraving representing the Basilewski Hotel, Paris, which has just been bought, as a permanent residence, by the ex-Queen of Spain. We now lay before our readers two other Illustrations of the same edifice, the one representing the grand staircase and the other the principal state saloon; but need add nothing to the description of the building which we have already published.

#### INSTALLATION OF THE GRAND RABBI AT THE SYNAGOGUE IN PARIS.

On the 13th inst.—which, in the Jewish Calendar, is the first day of Schebat, 5629—a solemn ceremony was observed at the old Synagogue, in the Rue Notre Dame de Nazareth, Paris. There are two new synagogues, one in the Rue de la Victoire and the other in the Marais; but the old building is the chief, and its interior arrangements are so peculiar, its antique lamps and fittings so remarkable, in a city where everything seems to be changing day by day, that there was something entirely consistent in the observance which drew the Jewish community of Paris together having been held there. The occasion was the solemn reception of the Grand Rabbi Zadok Khan, who has been appointed to that rank in Paris, in place of M. Isidor, now raised to the dignity of Grand Rabbi of France.

The original word Rabbi was a title of respect similar in meaning to our word "master," in the sense of tutor or teacher; and it was given to the teachers of the Jewish law by their disciples and by the people, in the time of Christ, to whom the title, as well as that of Rabbini—the highest form of the word—was also applied. It is doubtful when the word was first introduced; but it is not to be discovered before the time of Hillel of Babylon, who lived in the first century before the Christian era. It was originally used in three forms—*Rab*, which was the lowest or ordinary degree of honour; *Rabbi*, of greater dignity; and *Rabban*, or *Rabboni*, which is the most honourable of all.

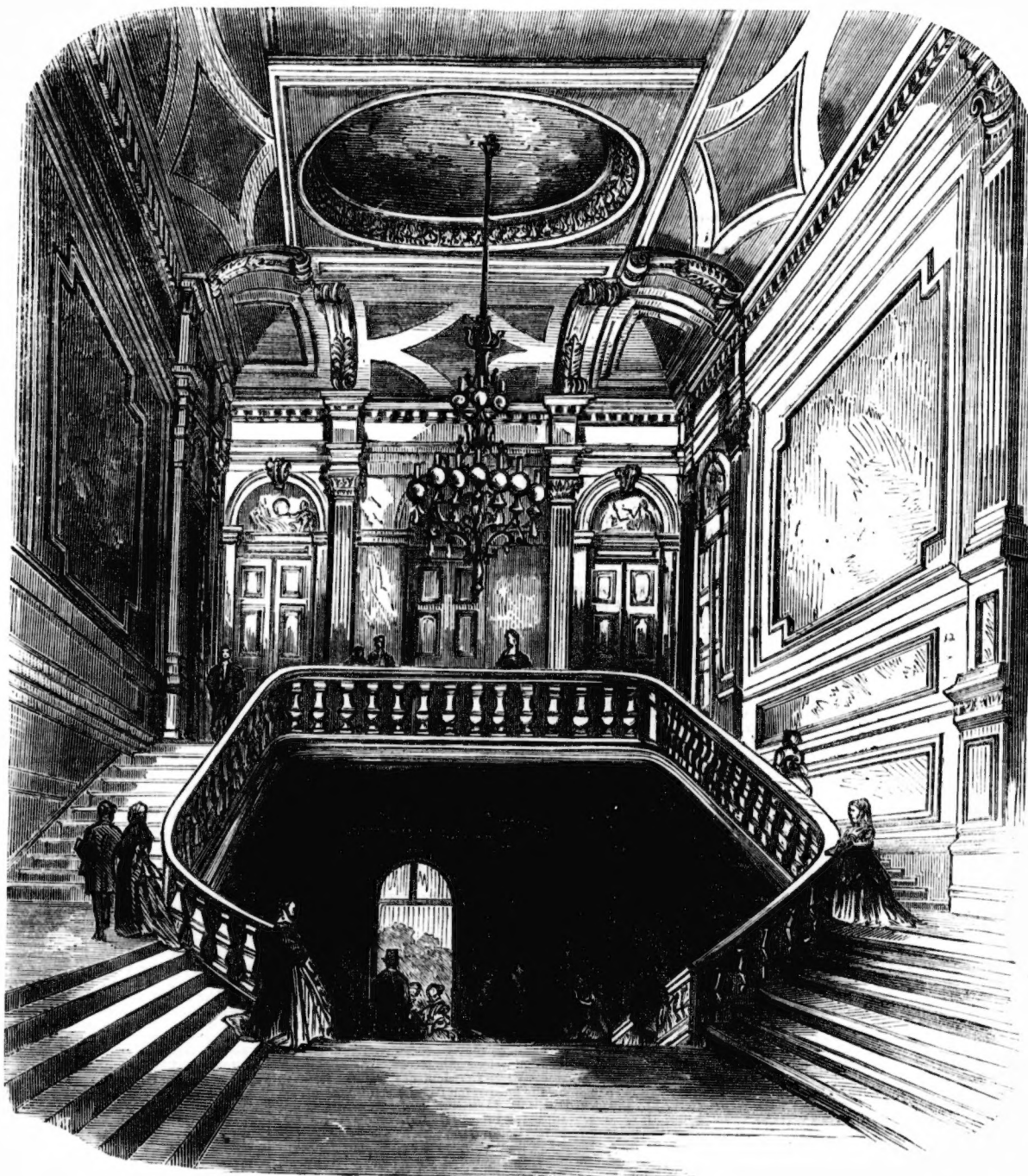
In order to become a Jewish priest two examinations must be passed, after which the title of Rabbi or Grand Rabbi is conferred, in much the same way as a high decree or a diploma is conferred in law or medicine at our Universities; so that a Rabbi at the synagogue may have the title of Grand Rabbi without being the principal of the synagogue itself, the grand Chief Rabbi being chosen at a council from amongst the priests having the grade of Grand Rabbi. As regards the synagogue itself, where the public worship and religious ceremonies of the Jews are held, the word simply means house of assembly even in the Hebrew, and there are no traces of any such building or express reference to such place till some time after the Babylonian captivity. Doubtless, however, the origin of the assemblies may be traced to that period when the Jews met to hear portions of their Scriptures read; and after the return to Palestine the custom was continued in definite places set apart for the purpose. They existed earlier among the Jews



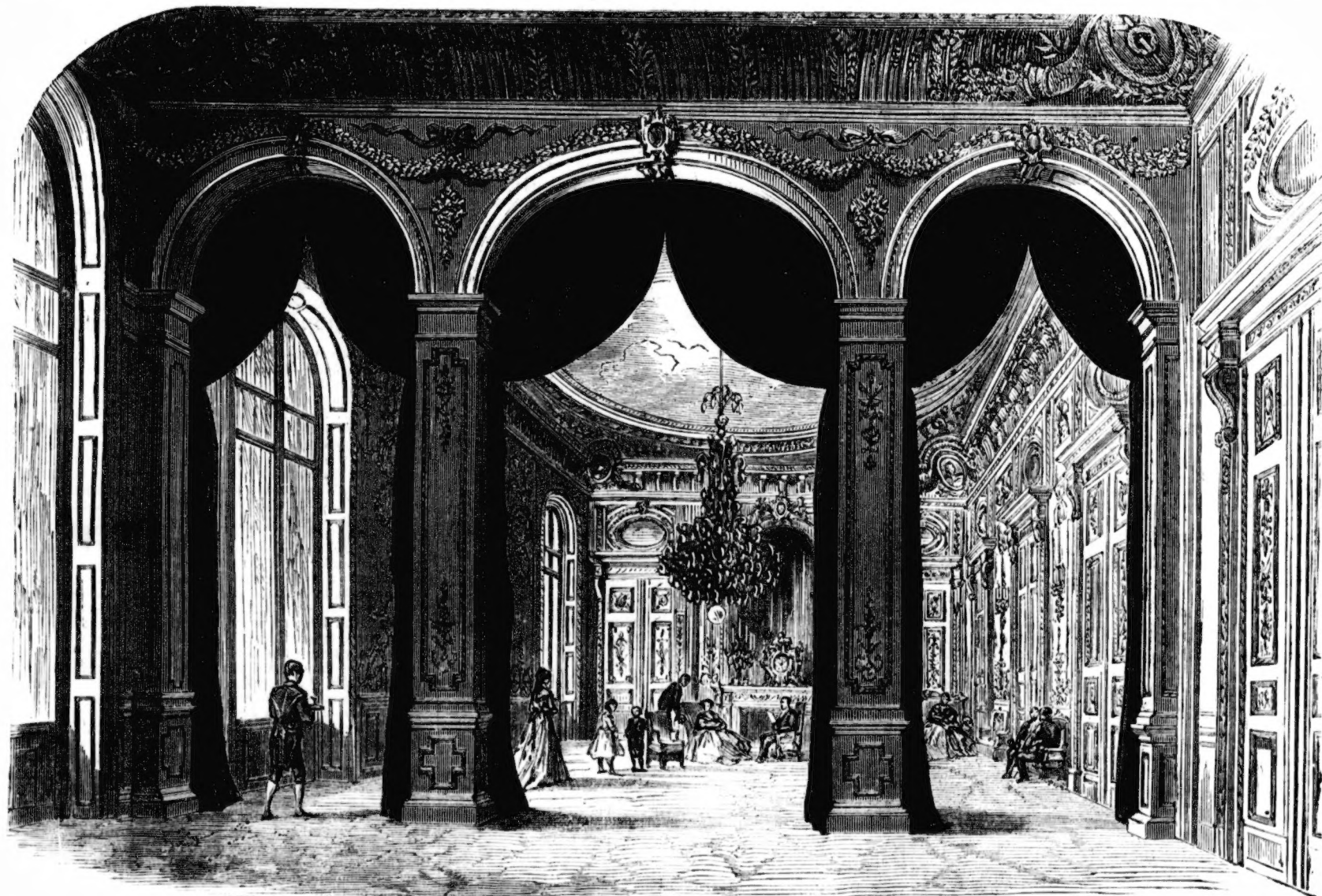
settled in foreign parts than in their own country, where they were not established until the time of the Asmonian Princes; but they soon increased, and were mostly erected outside the towns in the fields, and usually near streams or pools for the convenience of ablution. When they were introduced in towns they were built on the most elevated spots that could be obtained for the purpose. The Jewish writers affirm that there were 480 synagogues in Jerusalem. The assemblages were at first confined to the Sabbath days and festivals, but were latterly extended to the second and fifth days of the week (Mondays and Thursdays). The services consisted in prayer and in the reading and exposition of the sacred books. The whole concluded with prayer, to which the entire congregation responded "Amen." There is no reason to suppose that the ancient synagogues were of any particular form; but they each had a kind of altar or table at which the volume of the law was read, and at the east end was an ark or chest in which that volume was kept. The seats were so disposed that the faces of the people were turned towards this sacred repository and towards the elders, who sat with their backs to the ark and their faces to the people. The synagogue was not only a place of worship, but a court of justice for the trial of small offences, some of which were punishable by stripes, inflicted then and there. The affairs of the synagogue were under several officers, the ruler of the synagogue being the chief, and after him the "angel" or messenger of the church, who prayed in behalf of the congregation. In modern synagogues the chazan or reader seems to answer to the "minister," who had charge of the sacred books; and, as it appears that there were several rulers of the synagogue, they are no doubt represented by the modern Council of Elders, who now administer the affairs of the Jewish Church. Most of the old usages are still retained in

the synagogues; and they are generally built east and west, with the principal entrance in the west, that as the people enter and as they sit their faces may be turned towards Judea. The altar, or, rather, desk, is on a raised platform, surrounded by a rail, and large enough to contain several persons. The women do not mingle with the men, but have a separate gallery or portion of the building to themselves, where a wooden lattice screens them from observation. The men keep their heads covered during the time they are in the synagogues.

M. Isidor, the Grand Rabbi of France, is President of the Jewish Consistory there, and M. Zadok Kahn is chief of the Paris synagogue, and has only the same position as the Grand Rabbis of other synagogues in the country. At the ceremony of his installation the building was brilliantly lighted, and a large assembly congregated on the occasion. At two o'clock the new Grand Rabbi presented himself at the gate, where he was received by the council, the choir chanting a psalm; after which M. Halphen, in the absence of M. Gustave de Rothschild, as vice-president of the Consistory of Paris, read the decree confirming the election of the new pastor. Then the Grand Rabbi Isidor, surrounded by his colleagues, descended to the Prie-Dieu, holding in one hand the ritual and in the other the book of the law. He then, in a moving speech, addressed his successor, commending to him the high functions he had been chosen to fulfil. The new Rabbi replied with much emotion, and produced a profound impression on the assembly, his speech terminating with a solemn invocation imploring a blessing on his people, the city of Paris, and the French nation. The Grand Rabbi then intoned the prayer for the Emperor, after which the book of the law was replaced in the ark and the concluding hallelujah was sung by the choir and accompanied by a band consisting of various instruments.

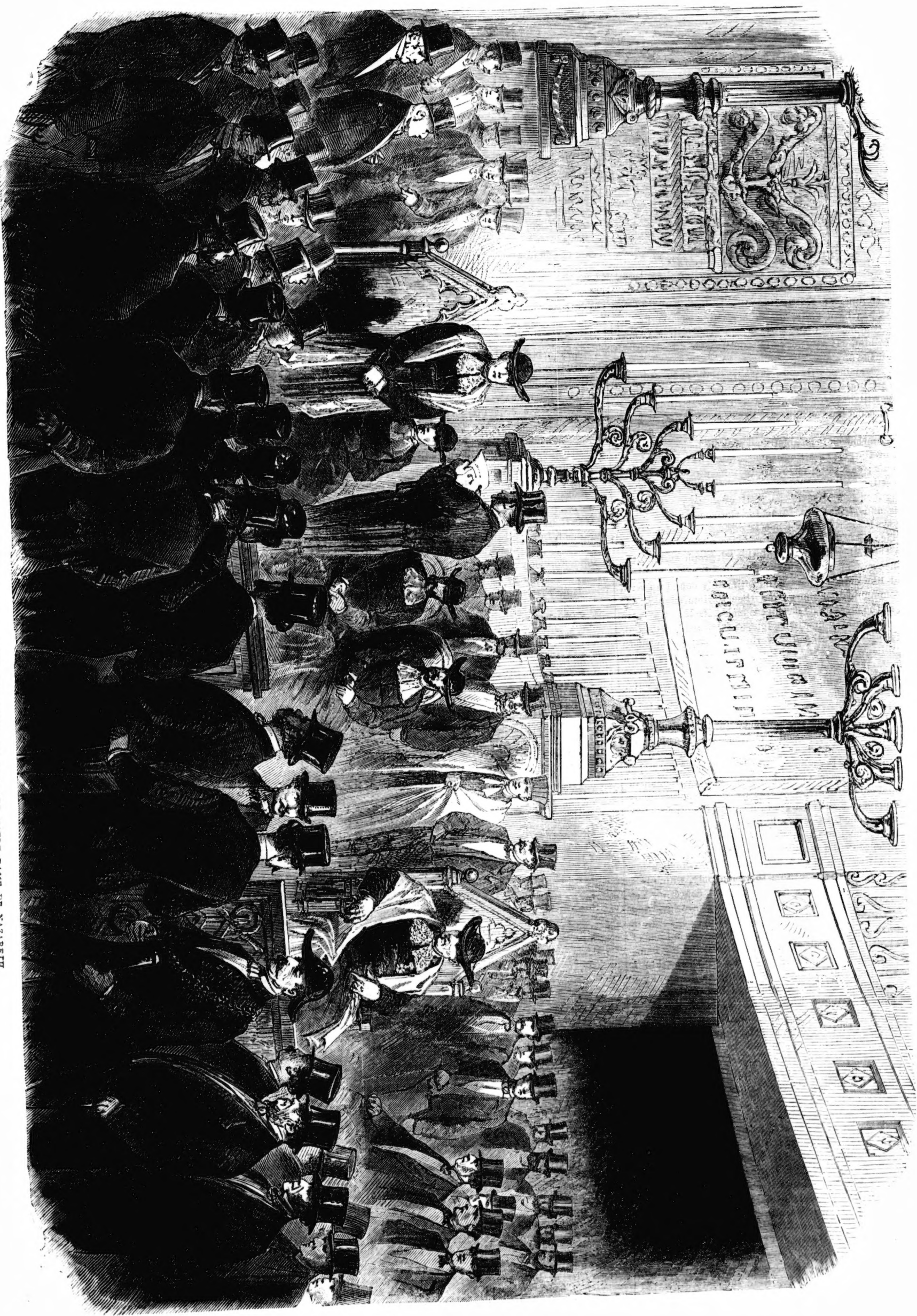


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### THE POST OFFICE.

THE Marquis of Hartington, her Majesty's Postmaster-General, has been addressing the electors of the Radnorshire boroughs, from which Mr. Green Price retires, to make room for him. It was not to be expected that his Lordship should make any announcements as to what he proposes to do in St. Martin's-le-Grand; more especially as he cannot as yet know much about what is required to be done there. But he will have to learn, and will speedily discover that his work is cut out for him. He has at present no particular reputation as an administrator, though there is a floating impression that he is an abler man than he looks. His coolness is of the sort that Englishmen rather like, especially in a Marquis; and there ought to be plenty of work in him. The question is, however, has his Lordship "go," as well as working faculty? Has he the instinct which makes opportunities and strikes out paths for the accomplishment of new tasks? For this is what is cryingly wanted at the Post Office.

Like the railway system and the telegraph system, the post-office system is one that cannot possibly stand still in a world like ours. Whatever is intimately bound up with rapid communication must from time to time adapt itself afresh, as the pressure of new needs makes itself felt. There is always something new to be done at St. Martin's-le-Grand, for the simple reason that the world cannot be persuaded to stand still. We have had Sir Rowland Hill busy there as a reformer and reorganiser; we have now Mr. Scudamore there, and he has a high reputation for energy and sagacity. But, for all this, the Post Office is about the best-abused of the Government departments—next, of course, to the Admiralty, whose proud pre-eminence in that department, by-the-by, seems likely to suffer under the vigorous hand of Mr. Childers. The Marquis of Hartington cannot be expected to bring to his new task the same recklessness of innovation and the same desire to "keep moving" as a gentleman of the colonial culture of Mr. Childers; but he will undoubtedly be called upon to make changes in his department.

The Post Office, as we all know, is a Government monopoly. The recent decisions against the circular-delivering speculators we most of us regret, but no doubt they were strictly right as the law stands. Things being so, we are entitled to expect that this monopoly, which is a remunerative one, should be a well-managed concern. Yet complaints have long been loud, and they are growing louder. The delays in the delivery of letters constitute a real evil—not a thing existing merely in the minds of fretful old gentlemen, but an unpleasant fact, coming home to the business and bosoms of some of us. Twice within a week has it happened to the writer of these lines to have letters posted at night in a suburban box delivered in another suburb lying within three miles at the early hour of—3.30 the next day! Sometimes it is past ten o'clock at night before the last delivery is made. And some letters, "once committed to the Post Office, become the property of her Majesty," in a sense which the official notice never contemplated; for you hear of them no more. These things point to bad—probably shifty and unsettled—arrangements, and to the fact that the staff is overworked. You never question a postman about his work and wages without hearing a tale of woe. The class have, or had lately, a journal devoted to their grievances, the chief among them being the bareness of their pay. During the election contests postmen were out delivering candidates' circulars till eleven at night; people were knocked up out of their beds to take them in; yet it has been stated that no extra allowance was made to the men for this enormous amount of extra work. The claims of the men, then, must be attended to. Conceive a strike of postmen! To be effective it ought, of course, to be done without notice; and whatever would become of us all if, some fine day, the postal delivery were suddenly converted into a *poste-restante*?

Nor are the grievances of the men by any means all. The book and newspaper post, especially the latter, will have to be revised once more; and, if the Government maintains, as it no doubt will do, its monopoly in the delivery of letters, it will have to reduce its tariff on large quantities of

circulars. The two immediate wants at St. Martin's-le-Grand are, however, an internal system that has made up its mind about the best way of mapping out a great city of London and is yet elastic; and a staff of postmen either increased in numbers or better paid for the work they do.

### LECTURES FOR WOMEN.

"YOU might teach chemistry by lectures, you might teach shoemaking by lectures," said Dr. Johnson, intending to disparage that mode of instruction. But the fact is, you may teach anything in the world by lectures, if it can be taught at all. Only the lectures must be upon the best academic model, followed by examinations; and not mere whipt-cream from half-educated talkers. Such lectures for women have been delivered in the North of England; and, having been found successful, the plan is in process of being extended to London, the Scottish university towns, and elsewhere, if indeed it is not already in action at some of the great centres of population. The fee has been something like a pound a course, the course consisting of twenty lectures; and this is found to pay.

This plan seems to meet the difficulty which exists in the case of young women with homes, and with ties and duties which they would not like to sever, even partially, if they could avoid doing so, by going to a ladies' college. The most timid conservative parent will not object to a young lady attending a lecture by Professor Tyndall or Professor Seeley, if her visits to the lecture-room are duly guarded. In the case of a young lady of, say, sixteen, and of attractive appearance, there is undoubtedly a real danger if she is found to be regularly making a certain journey at certain hours. We do not mean danger of insult—of which there is very little fear in the case of a woman of genuine good manners—but of undesirable acquaintances, whether male or female. Cases occur, and not seldom, in which very young daily governesses pick up in their walks to and fro girl friends whom they would be far better without, and, still worse cases, in which they form foolish attachments, perfectly virtuous in design, but very absurd, and causing a good deal of trouble to parents and guardians. A word to the wise.

It is to be hoped that the change, which is undoubtedly imminent, in regard to the culture of women, will not go on too fast for reality and permanence, nor fast enough to develop unforeseen mischiefs which patience and caution would avoid. But too rapid progress is what some of its best friends now fear for it—so sudden are modern movements!

### NEW PAINTED WINDOWS IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Two new painted windows of more than ordinary interest have lately been erected in Westminster Abbey: the one in memory of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, in the north aisle of the nave, not far from the windows put up to the memory of Joseph Locke and Robert Stephenson; the other on the eastern side of the south transept, in "Poets' Corner," in honour of Geoffrey Chaucer, just above the poet's tomb. The Brunel window consists of two lights, surmounted by a quatrefoil opening; along the bottom runs a legend giving the dates of Brunel's birth and death (1806–1859). Over this are allegorical figures of Fortitude, Justice, Faith, and Charity; and the upper part of the window consists of six panels, representing three subjects from the Old and three from the New Testament—viz., the Dedication of the Temple by Solomon, the Finding of the Book of the Law by Hilkiah, the Laying the Foundations of the Second Temple, Simeon Blessing the Infant Saviour, Christ Disputing with the Doctors, and the Disciples Pointing out to Christ the Buildings of the Temple. Above, in the head of each light, are angels kneeling, and in the quatrefoil is the Saviour in glory, surrounded by angels. The design was executed in glass by Messrs. Heaton and Co., of Garrick-street, from the designs of Mr. R. N. Shaw, the figure-subjects being drawn by Holday. The colours are of sober rather than a brilliant tone, which contrasts agreeably with the red and blue which are so prominent in the Locke and Stephenson windows. The Chaucer memorial window has been erected by the gift of a single donor, who wishes to remain anonymous. It was designed by Mr. J. G. Waller (author of "The Monumental Brasses of Great Britain," folio), and executed by Messrs. Baillie and Mayer, of Wardour-street. The window itself is intended to embody the intellectual labours of Chaucer and to record his position among his contemporaries. At the base are the Canterbury Pilgrims, one group setting out from London and the other arriving at Canterbury. The medallions above represent Chaucer receiving, in company with others, a commission from Edward III. to the Doge of Genoa and his reception by the latter. The subjects at the apex of the window are taken from the moral poem entitled "The Floure and the Leaf"—"They which honour the flower, a thing fading with every blast, are such as look after beauty and worldly pleasure; but they that honour the leaf, which abideth with the root, are they which follow virtue and enduring qualities, without regard to worldly respects." On the dexter side, dressed in white, is the "Ladye of the Leaf," with her attendants; on the sinister side is the "Ladye of the Floure," dressed in green. In the spandrels adjoining are the armorial bearings of the poet himself, and on the sinister side the arms of Chaucer impaling those of his wife. The portrait of the poet occupies the centre of the tracery above, between those of Edward III. and Queen Philippa, his wife; below them are those of Gower and John of Gaunt; and above them Wycliffe and Strode, his contemporaries. In the borders are disposed the following shields of arms, alternately—England, France, Hainault, Lancaster, Castile, and Leon. At the base of the window runs the simple legend—"Geoffrey Chaucer, died A.D. 1400," with four lines selected from his poem, "Balade of Gode Coussaile":—

Flee fro the prees, and dwell with soft fastnesse,  
Suffice unto thy god though it be small.

That thee is sent recyve in buxomnesse:  
The wrastling for this world asketh a fall.

In "The Departure of the Pilgrims from the Tabard Inn" the figures are arranged thus:—1, the Reeve; 2, the Manciple; 3, Chaucer; 4, the Knight; 5, the Yeoman; 6, the Squire; 7, the Sergeant of Law; 8, the Shipman; 9, the Doctor of Physic. In "The Arrival at Canterbury" the figures stand as follow:—1, the Somptour; 2, the Pardoner; 3, the Parson; 4, the Monk; 5, the Prioress; 6, the Nun; 7, the Frankelene; 8, the Plowman; 9, the Clerke of Oxenforde.

FIVE HOUSE, WHITEHALL, situated in the line of the Thames Northern Embankment, is now being demolished by order of the Commissioners of her Majesty's Works. In a few days the entire building, together with a portion of the premises of the United Service Museum, several adjacent houses, and the Tudor-arched entrance to the palace water-stairs will be gone.

### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN will return to Windsor Castle on Feb. 19 or 20. Afterward her Majesty intends paying several short visits to Claremont, and during the London season will reside for a time at Buckingham Palace.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS DE CHARTRES was safely delivered of a Princess early on Tuesday morning.

THE KING OF PORTUGAL has dissolved his Parliament and summoned a new one, to meet on May 4.

THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY is reported to be somewhat better, a gradual improvement having taken place in his Lordship's health within the last few days.

THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON has commenced a canvass of the Radnor Boroughs, the seat for which has been rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. Green Price. Mr. Phillips, a local Conservative, opposes the noble Marquis.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between Lord Northwick, of Northwick Park, near Morton-in-the-Marsh, and the Hon. Mrs. G. Warburton, widow of Major G. D. Warburton, M.P., and sister to Lord Bateman.

MR. BURLINGAME, the Chinese Ambassador, and all the members of his Embassy were received by the Emperor Napoleon, at the Tuileries, on Sunday.

THE MARQUIS OF BUTE, who is now in Rome, is, it is said, about to be admitted to the priesthood of the Romish Church.

MR. CARDWELL, while visiting the camp at Aldershot lately, expressed a wish to examine one of the infantry soldier's kits. Accordingly, one was laid out for his inspection in a barrack-room, and having minutely examined it, the Secretary of State is understood to have expressed his opinion that a soldier's kit might be considerably diminished both in weight and quantity.

LORD MALMESBURY has resigned the leadership of the Conservative party in the House of Lords which he held during Mr. Disraeli's Administration, and also at intervals during the frequent sufferings of the Earl of Derby from illness since 1852. No Peer has yet been chosen to succeed to the post.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS will preside at the dinner to be given in behalf of the funds of the News-vendors' Benevolent and Provident Institution, at Freemasons' Tavern, on April 26 next.

THE VACANCY IN THE ORDER OF THE THISTLE, caused by the death of Lord Belhaven, has been filled up by the elevation of Lord Southesk to the dignity of a Knight of that order. Sir T. E. Colebrooke, Bart., M.P., has been appointed Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire, in the room of the late Lord Belhaven.

THE POOR-LAW BOARD bring the comparative statement of pauperism down to the third week in January. This year the total number of paupers in the metropolis was 149,885—a decrease of nearly 20,000, as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

MR. HUGHES, late chief accountant to the Metropolitan Board of Works, was again brought up, at Bow-street Police Court, on Wednesday, on a charge of having embezzled £2000, the moneys of the ratepayers. The defendant, who simply denied the charge, was committed for trial at the March Sessions of the Central Criminal Court.

A FRIGHTFUL RAILWAY ACCIDENT, by which fifteen natives were killed and thirty-six wounded, has occurred at Bhor Ghaut, in India.

THE VESTRY OF BETHNAL-GREEN have been enabled to reduce the poor rate 2d. in the pound on the current quarter through the operation of Mr. Hardy's Act.

A PROTESTANT religious service was performed in Madrid for the first time in public on Sunday.

JOHN FROST, butcher, of Horncastle, Lincolnshire, was on Tuesday fined £10 and £5 ss. costs, at Guildhall, for sending diseased meat to the London market.

THE QUANTITY OF GOLD shipped from Australia during 1868 amounted to 1,801,581 oz.

MR. H. A. BRUCE was elected, without opposition, for Renfrewshire on Monday. He spoke at some length on education and the Irish Church, and promised that, if the present Ministers were allowed to remain a sufficient time in office, they would effect a visible improvement in the condition of the country. Mr. Bruce also announced that it would be his duty as Home Secretary to prepare a bill providing for a surveillance over members of the criminal class.

M. GARNIER-PAGES has announced to his friends that on account of the state of his health he will not present himself at the approaching elections. M. Darimon also intends, it is said, to withdraw from the representation of Paris.

M. GEORGE PILOTTELL, a young Parisian draughtsman, is to be prosecuted for a sketch, in which he represents Victor Hugo, Barbès, and Ledru-Rollin on a desolate rock looking at an Aurora which is just appearing above the horizon.

THE LIBERAL ELECTORS OF DROGHEDA have resolved to ask Mr. Thomas Whitworth to become a candidate for the seat rendered vacant by the decision against his father, Mr. Benjamin Whitworth, and have promised to bear all the expenses of his election.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PROTESTANT UNION are organising branch associations, and intend sending deputations throughout the country to give information on the Church in Ireland and "on the social and political state of that portion of the empire."

THE RECENT TREASURY ORDER relating to the bankruptcy of members of the civil service is being followed up by the Admiralty. An order has been received at Chatham dockyard directing the suspension of one of the established clerks in the storekeeper's department who has recently become insolvent.

A COMMITTEE, of which Lord Northbrook is president, and Generals Lefroy and Simmons and Colonel Jervois are members, has been appointed, and is now engaged at the War Office considering various points connected with the proposed adoption of the Moncrieff system of working heavy artillery.

AN ARREST has been made in connection with the murder of Mr. Baker, at Banah, in the county of Tipperary. The man taken into custody on suspicion is named Patrick Pyne.

THE NORWICH CONSERVATIVES intend to contest the seat now vacant for that city. Mr. Edward Stracey, son of Sir H. Stracey, the late Conservative sitting member, is named as their champion. The only candidate at present actually in the field is Mr. E. Warner (Liberal).

WILLIAM ROUFFELL is still in prison, but is in a very bad state of health, and a memorial on his behalf has been presented to the Home Secretary, which is now under consideration.

"A HISTORY OF THE SECOND EMPIRE," by M. Taxis Delord, has just been published in Paris; and so great is the demand for it that a first edition of 4000 copies has, the *Sicile* announces, been disposed of in a few days, and a second is in the press.

THE ADVANCED LIBERALS OF HALIFAX have formed an association for advocating the ballot, the placing of all religious bodies on an equality, the adoption of a comprehensive national system of education, and the repeal of the law of primogeniture. At Otley an association for promoting the Liberal interest in that portion of the Eastern Division of the Riding, and for securing a more liberal county franchise, has also been established.

A GENTLEMAN, so he is called by the reporters, named George Roberts, was fined 5s. by the Dewsbury magistrates, on Monday, for singing a song, to the tune of "If I had a donkey," in church when a funeral service was going on. He was drunk at the time.

THE BISHOP OF TRIESTE, being hurt at a demonstration made against him by the Ultramontanes of that city, went to Capo d'Istria, where, the day after his arrival, he ascended the pulpit, and, taking for his text the words, "My kingdom is not of this world," demonstrated that the temporal authority of the Pope was incompatible with spiritual powers.

THE MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COAL EXCHANGE have, through James Dixon, Esq., chairman of the Coal-owners' Society; W. J. Hinton, Esq., chairman of the Coal Merchants' Society; and Robert Peters, Esq., honorary secretary of the last-named society, presented to the National Life-Boat Institution £700 10s., to defray the cost of the splendid large life-boat stationed at Southwold, on the coast of Suffolk, which the donors wish named the "London Coal Exchange."

THE MAN SHEWARD, who is charged on his own confession with having murdered his wife at Norwich in 1851, was again brought before the magistrates on Monday. The evidence for the prosecution was continued, and another adjournment took place for the purpose of ensuring the attendance of two essential witnesses.

A SHOCKING ACCIDENT, by which five men lost their lives, is reported in the Manchester papers. On Tuesday morning seven men went to a fishing-ground at the mouth of the Ribble, not far from Lytham, to "put" for shrimps. A fog coming on, they were unable to find their way out of the fishing shoals, and were surrounded by the tide and all drowned. Their bodies were recovered in the course of the day.

THE COASTGUARD OFFICE IN SPRING-GARDENS has been abolished, and Rear-Admiral Tarleton, C.B., has received notice that his pay as Comptroller-General will cease on March 30; and he will then be offered an immediate appointment abroad. In the mean time the Deputy Comptroller, Captain Woodhouse, has been appointed Superintendent of Harlar Hospital and the Royal Clarence Yard; but the appointment has not been made, as on former occasions, for five years.

IN REVOLUTIONARY COUNTRIES political gratitude is apt to be at a discount. A flatterer of a fallen monarchy was rejoicing with an acquaintance at the revolution. "Well, but surely you have no great reason to rejoice; they always treated you well." "Ah! yes; I blush to think that they dared to insult me with their favours."



## THE LOUNGER.

SOME months ago I had to announce that Colonel Taylor had resigned the post of chief whip to the Conservative party. The Hon. Gerard Noel, son of the Earl of Gainsborough, who had long acted as assistant whip, succeeded Colonel Taylor. Now Mr. Whitmore, the other assistant whip, has retired. His place is to be filled by Mr. William Hart Dyke, the member for Mid-Kent. He is the eldest surviving son of Sir Percy Hart Dyke. A paragraph in the *Maidstone Journal* says, "We believe it is no secret that his abilities long since attracted the special notice of Mr. Disraeli." There is something ludicrous in this. If Mr. Disraeli had given Mr. Hart Dyke an important office in the late Government the announcement would have been pertinent; but now it is appropos to nothing. The most ordinary abilities are sufficient to enable a junior party whip to perform his duties efficiently. It is a wonder to many that gentlemen can be found to take the place of whip to a party which so seldom gets into office. The duties are exacting; and, if not humiliating, are certainly, one would think, not pleasant. The office of whip to the party in power is valuable. The chief whip is always Patronage Secretary to the Treasury, with a salary of £2000 a year. The junior whips are generally Lords of the Treasury, salary £1000; and, after reasonably long services, they can, if so minded, get some permanent appointment. Thus, Mr. Grenville Berkeley was made Commissioner of Customs—salary £1200 a year; and Lord Mulgrave Governor of Nova Scotia, with a salary of I know not what amount; and, going further back, Sir Thomas Fremantle, who was long chief Conservative whip, obtained the Chairmanship of the Customs Board, salary £2000 a year, which post he still holds. By-the-way, Colonel Taylor and Mr. Whitmore get nothing permanent on retirement. Perhaps they did not like to leave Parliament. The whips of a party out of office, I believe, get nothing. They work for love, or in the hope of benefits to come. Colonel Taylor and Mr. Whitmore did not make much out of the office. For seven long years they toiled without pay, and, when the harvest came, Colonel Taylor reaped less than £6000, Mr. Whitmore less than £4000—average in the one case less than £600 a year, in the other less than £300—which is not much, considering the exacting duties which they performed; for the office of whip, especially that of the chief whip, is no sinecure; on the contrary, the labour whilst the House is sitting is incessant, both before the curtain and behind the scenes. There must be, one would think, some charm about the office which outsiders cannot appreciate, for men of high family condescend to take it, and even wealthy men who cannot want the emoluments. Nay, as we have seen, they hold the office for years without any emolument. Noble Lords have often kept watch and ward at the door, and Mr. Glyn, the present chief whip for the Government, relinquished his partnership in the great banking-house in the City to take the office. Perhaps it is the prominent position which whips occupy, a certain sense of power which they feel, or the patronage which they have at command, that fascinates them. It is observable that whips seldom mount to high office. No member of the present Cabinet was ever whip of the House of Commons; and, except Mr. Huggess, Under-Secretary of the Home Department, no Parliamentary Minister of the Crown. By-the-way, Mr. Bright entered the Cabinet without having held any inferior post. Is not this case unique?

The Admiralty at Whitehall is to be enlarged by the addition of buildings over the gardens at the back, adjoining St. James's Park, to make room for all the clerks now at Somerset House. And here is another curious bit of news from the Admiralty. Mr. Fellowes, Mr. Seely's private secretary, is to be rewarded for his services in getting up Mr. Seely's case against the Admiralty administration with an appointment in the Accountant-General's department; and he is not to enter by the usual gateway, beginning with a salary of £100 a year, but to be placed at once in a high position, with comparatively a large salary. This comes with apparently good authority, and yet it has so strange an aspect that one hesitates to believe it.

The political power of the British aristocracy has within the last few years been wonderfully shaken. In Scotland it is all but gone. A London stationer confronted a great Duke in Dumfriesshire and beat him; a London barrister opposed Sir William Stirling Maxwell in his own county (Perthshire), and defeated him, although the lord of the soil spent £10,000, and the barrister only about as many hundreds. In 1866, Mr. Dingwall Fordyce beat the landlord's man, Sir James Elphinstone, by more than a thousand majority. In 1868 Mr. Fordyce came in without a contest. In West Aberdeenshire, Mr. McCombie, a grazier, scared away his opponent. By-the-way, here is a good story about the member for West Aberdeenshire. He canvassed every elector himself, and made everyone who promised his vote sign the canvass-book. "Canvass" that, Mr. Editor! In Wales the great landlords were in several counties ignominiously routed, notably in Carmarthenshire and Carnarvonshire; whilst in Denbighshire the great Sir Watkin, king of Wales, as he has been called, might have been imperilled but for a division in the Liberal camp. In English boroughs, too, landlordism has not much power. But in English counties it is still all but omnipotent. But, strong as it is at present, danger lies in the future. At no distant day English landlords will follow the example of the Scotch, and will let their land, not upon the feudal principle, but upon the principles of political economy—that is, at the market price. Then they will have to grant long leases, and then their political power will be gone.

But, lo! whilst aristocratic tyranny is waning, here we have another tyranny lording over our constituencies—viz., the tyranny of the moneyocrat. In many of our boroughs money seems to be all powerful. Well, must we succumb without a struggle to this tyrant? No; we must not do that. Nor, indeed, are we succumbing. We passed a more stringent Corrupt Practices Bill last Session, and, administered by able and impartial Judges, it is doing its work reasonably well. Sir Henry Stracey, who beat Mr. Tillett by sheer force of money at Norwich, has been ousted; Sir Richard Glass, at Bewdley, who bought his seat, has lost it, and his money too. Ripley's case, at Bradford, whilst I write, looks queer; and many more honourable members are trembling in their shoes. But petitioning is awfully expensive, and many a sinner will escape because money could not be found to bring him to trial. Besides, money not illegally spent often keeps the right man out—the man that the majority would elect if they could choose—and puts the wrong man in. We have a notable instance of this in the case of the Tower Hamlets. Can any man doubt that Edmond Beales would have been elected but for Samuda's expenditure of money? And it will be difficult to frame an Act of Parliament that will touch such cases as this. What are we, then, to do? Must we come to the ballot? For forty years your Lounger has opposed secret voting, and he would still prefer open voting; but to meet this money power he is ready to give up his abstract principle and adopt the ballot, nothing doubting—indeed, he never did doubt—that, though we cannot beat the moneyocracy in open field, we can stifle it with a ballot-box.

The death of Ernest Jones is a sad event. He was always a favourite of mine, though I never saw him. Not so much on account of his politics was he a favourite; but because he was a bright light in dark times, faithful for years to an unpopular cause; because he was a man that no persecution could daunt, no temptation could swerve. He worked for the people's cause, as he understood it, for years without fee or reward. Some one left him £2000 per annum, on condition that he should abandon the Chartist cause; he refused it. How such an action shines in these dark days of greed and fraud! He suffered two years' imprisonment for making a seditious speech which now would pass without notice. Whilst in prison he was cruelly denied the use of pen, ink, and paper, whereon to write a poem. He wrote it with his blood on the leaves of his prayer-book. Does that prayer-book exist?

If it does, let it be placed in some people's museum, under a glass case. All honour to this hero! Manchester should erect a statue to his memory.

## THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

For an innovation, and a first attempt, the reading of Mr. Robert Buchanan at the Hanover-square Rooms on Monday last was a success, and the better part of the press, with no exception that I have seen, speak encouragingly of both the design and the execution. There has been some discussion of the question whether or not Mr. Buchanan overrated, in his remarks, the disadvantage under which a poet labours who does not sing or read his own poem—a point which I raised the other day. It is, of course, one enormous advantage to be able to have a poem before you in print, which you can read at your leisure again and again; but it is also an advantage if you can hear it well read. Mr. Buchanan read some of his pieces in such a way as to "bring down the house;" though it usually happens that poets are bad reciters, both of their own verses and those of others. One thing the poet himself is pretty certain to give you—namely, the precise caesural effects he intends, and this Mr. Buchanan did. An actor, whenever he can, delivers blank verse as if it were prose, a trick which I always find disagreeable. Of course, Mr. Buchanan will give more readings, when I hope we shall find included in the programme the "English Eclogue."

The *British Quarterly* contains, as was to be expected, a memoir of its founder and late editor, the able and excellent Dr. Vaughan, a man, however, who always seemed to me to be out of place among Dissenters. The author of a very shrewd paper on Doré—who is, or is shortly to be, our guest—is justly displeased with Mr. Ruskin for the manner in which he lately spoke of one of the greatest men of modern times. The mere strength of a man like Doré ought to make him respected. Some of the criticisms upon him in this paper are extremely acute; but it is rather broken in style, and not chiselled into consistency with itself. The articles on "Church Principles and Prospects" and on "The New Parliament and Mr. Gladstone" are, in point both of tone and of quality, what might be expected in this periodical—able, direct, and full of the light of principle. The author of the latter paper makes a remark which has not, I think, been made before—that Mr. Gladstone, with a majority at his back, is likely to get along well and keep the reins so long as he has great questions to deal with, in the face of an awakened public opinion; and, as there is a good list of such questions pending, this "so long" probably means a good while. As usual, the highest praise is due to the department of "Contemporary Literature." The union of kindness with conscience in these short notices might be a useful study for inexperienced reviewers. But, unfortunately, it is only after having had a certain amount of experience that their excellence and moderation can be discerned.

I have to make a slight correction. In mentioning, last week, the able paper in the *Gentleman's Magazine* on "The Languages and Literature of the East," I stated that the paper was by Mr. Charles "Wills." The author's name should have been printed "Wells."

## THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Two new burlesques were produced last week, one at the New Royalty and one at the Globe; and the fact that both of them are based on subjects not ordinarily associated with rhymed extravaganza may be taken as evidence—if evidence were needed—that the old veins have been pretty nearly worked out. The New Royalty piece is called "Claude Duval, or the Highwayman for the Ladies," and is, of course, from the pen of Mr. F. C. Burnand, who is now the recognised purveyor of burlesque to this establishment. It is full of life and bustle, and some of the music is of a higher order than usual in burlesque; but, on the other hand, the plot is rather complicated, and not very clearly told. I should qualify this remark by admitting that, as I sat in the last stall of the second row, I was not in a position to see more than those portions of the piece which took place in the "prompt-corner" of the stage. That there should have been, to one in my position, a certain solution of continuity between these fragments is not at all surprising; but I hope some night to get the corresponding stall at the other end of the row, in order to see the other half of the piece; and then, perhaps, much that is at present mysterious will be cleared up. The piece is not written with much verbal subtlety, but it is full of burlesqued melodramatic situations, and the songs are pretty, and nicely sung. Miss Oliver plays the hero, Claude—appearing for the first time, I think, for many years in a male part. The character affords very full scope for drawing upon that inexhaustible fund of sappy vitality which has so often made the fortunes of the pieces with which her name is associated. Miss Charlotte Saunders plays, with much artistic intensity, a dreadful Marquis, who sticks at no crime that will help him to his ends; but the part is hardly worthy of her. Mr. Danvers, a very clever low comedian, looked simply disgusting as a girl of sixteen, with a comic red wig and a ball dress. Perhaps the fun of dressing a man in petticoats, pink silk stockings, and a pair of embroidered mysteries is so recondit as to be beyond the pale of my powers of appreciation. Mr. Danvers is a very intelligent and very hard-working actor, invaluable to his theatre, and an immense favourite with his audiences; but if he would depend a little more upon his own native humour for his "laughs," and a little less upon the display of his legs in unmentionable female garments, he would probably please the gallery as well as he does now and the stalls much more. Mr. Dewar plays Jacob Kidd, a Bohemian comrade of Claude's, but he does not show to any great advantage in the part. Mr. Day, as a Jew, was simply unintelligible. The other parts are filled by a number of pretty young ladies, who discharge their decorative duties very effectively. The scenery is sufficiently good, and the dresses particularly pretty. The piece was quite successful, and Mr. Burnand was summoned to receive the customary compliment.

The burlesque at the Globe is written by Mr. Robert Reece, the author of several pieces of the same description. It is founded on the well-known farce "The Illustrious Stranger," rendered famous by Liston's celebrated performance of the shipwrecked sailor, Benjamin Bowbell. The plot of the original piece is closely followed, although the names of the characters have been altered. It is nicely written, and very beautifully mounted; but the music is not of a very refined description. Mr. Clarke, as the shipwrecked cockney, who is pointed out by an oracle as the destined husband of a Princess whose lover has disappeared, gives an amusing picture of what a cockney might fairly be supposed to say and do under such exceptional circumstances. Miss Maggie Brennan plays the part of Kemo-Kimo, the Court Embalmers, very prettily; but the character is not a particularly good one. Miss Hughes, a very clever burlesque actress, and an excellent singer, has little or nothing to do. The piece is furnished with some clever scenery by Mr. Julian Hicks; and will probably run for some time to come. Two all but interminable "breakdowns" might be shortened with advantage. The author was called on at the fall of the curtain, and bowed his acknowledgments.

THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF ROBERT BURNS was celebrated on Monday by the customary festive dinners in various parts of the country. In Edinburgh the dinner of the Burns Club was presided over by Mr. Henry Inglis, of Torsoe, and the Solicitor-General proposed "The Memory of Burns." At the Ayrshire Club festival Lord Ardmillan occupied the chair and proposed the toast of the evening.

TWO ACCIDENTS on metropolitan lines of railway were reported on Tuesday. Henry Morris, a van-driver, was run over by an engine at St. Pancras station, and one of his legs was cut off. The other had to be amputated when the man was taken to the hospital, and his right arm had also to be cut off. He is considered to be doing as well as possible after such mutilations. In the other case a man named Boulton, in getting out of a carriage while a train on the Metropolitan Railway was moving, slipped, and was severely injured. One of his legs had to be amputated at the Royal Free Hospital.

## EARL RUSSELL ON THE IRISH QUESTION.

MESSRS. LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO., have published a third letter by Earl Russell on the state of Ireland. Like the two former letters, it is addressed to Mr. Chichester Fortescue. The letter opens thus:—"The time has come when the mere assertion of principles is no longer sufficient, and it behoves a Liberal Government to introduce large measures for the good of Ireland. Happily we are not, as in 1778, engaged at once in a foreign and a civil war; nor, as in 1792, on the brink of the crater of the French Revolution; nor, as in 1829, in the alarm of an approaching insurrection. We have firm ground whereon to plant our feet, and we ought therefore to advance boldly on our path, and to complete the edifice which we have been so long in constructing until it becomes an enduring temple, sacred to concord and to liberty." His Lordship then proceeds to defend Mr. Gladstone against the accusation of having started the Irish question from a desire to obtain office. "The Liberal party," he says, "has been reunited more suddenly, and the country has responded to the call of its leaders more rapidly than I expected; but I still retain my opinion that Mr. Gladstone, encountering great risks and provoking bitter animosity, has aimed not at official station, but at the welfare of his country, in the mighty struggle in which he has engaged." He exposes the pretended obligation of the coronation oath, and marks with satisfaction "that the good sense of the nation has disposed of the fallacy which was offered for the acceptance of the two Houses of Parliament, that there is no distinction between public and private property." If, he observes, "by some unforeseen change of opinion in the House of Commons among the English members, or from any obstruction offered by the House of Lords, the wishes of Ireland should be defeated, it will be plain that for no purposes of peace and order, with no view of maintaining tranquillity, but solely from a regard to English prejudices and fears for the permanence of the English Church, a tyrannical away has been established in Ireland. It will be the iron hand without the velvet glove—a proclamation to the whole world that the authority of England over Ireland is maintained solely by force, and has no root in the affections and loyalty of the Irish people."

On the question of disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church, his Lordship arrives at the following conclusions:—

1. That at a certain date to be named—say March, 1870—the Established Church of Ireland shall cease to exist as an Establishment, due regard being had to all personal interests and to all individual rights of property.
2. That in the interval the Irish Church should, by means of a convention, or such other mode as may be deemed most advisable, frame a scheme for its organisation as a free Church.
3. That to this free Church should be assigned such cathedrals and parish churches as may have been chiefly built by voluntary Protestant contributions, and such lands and glebes as the present Established Church may produce equitable claims to retain.
4. That to the cathedrals, churches, lands, and glebes thus retained should be added a sum to be derived from the Church lands and rent charges, the amount of which shall be fixed by Parliament.
5. That property equal in amount to that retained by the Protestant Episcopal Church shall be assigned to the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic people of Ireland for purposes to be defined by Parliament, to be administered in the case of the Presbyterians by the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and in the case of the Roman Catholics by the Roman Catholic members of the Board of Charitable Bequests, already constituted by Act of Parliament, with numbers enlarged—say to fifteen or twenty-five.
6. That the funds to be so applied shall be derived from a fund designated by Parliament the Irish Fund, and that the amount applied from year to year shall be fixed, and shall not vary according to the rate of mortality among the existing clergy of the Established Church.
7. That the building and repairing of Presbyterian and Roman Catholic places of worship, and dwelling-houses for their respective clergy, shall be among the purposes to which the funds to be assigned to Presbyterians and Roman Catholics shall be applied.
8. That the remainder of the funds to be derived from the disendowment of the present Established Church shall be applied by Parliament, from time to time, solely to Irish purposes. That with this view the fund called the Irish Fund shall never be diverted to purposes other than the welfare and improvement of Ireland.

The noble Earl urges the maintenance of the present system of national education. With regard to the Maynooth grant and the Regium Donum, he suggests that the best course would be to respect life interests, as in the case of the Established Church, and afterwards to throw the two sums into the Irish fund, and to dispose of them according to the same rules. He then deals with the land question, and points out that part of the ecclesiastical property might be devoted to the improvement of land by drainage and other works.

In conclusion, he says:—

I feel sure that Mr. Gladstone will not recklessly introduce a measure affecting deeply the welfare of the United Kingdom merely that it may not be said that he has served as a stop-gap. I feel confident that he will not propose to the two Houses of Parliament to take a leap in the dark. He knows too well his duty to his Sovereign, who has called him to the head of affairs, and to the country, which willingly intrusts her destinies to his hands. I admire the prudence with which at some sacrifice he has refrained from expounding to the electors of the United Kingdom a regular plan for the distribution of the revenues of the Irish Church. The pacification of Ireland is a great object, but one which requires the deepest consideration on the part of those who, free from the dangers and exempt from the angry passions of past ages, are called upon to consolidate this great empire—to complete that which Mr. Pitt left undone in 1801, and which the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel were only half able to accomplish in 1829. You, and others intrusted by your Sovereign with the government of Ireland, will, I am sure, give your able assistance in this work. The narrow prejudices, the selfish interests, and the violent antipathies which have disgraced our late elections will fade in the presence of a settlement founded on the principles of wisdom and justice. The wreath of *civem servatum* will be a million times deserved by the Minister who shall knit together three nations, to be bound hereafter by a common feeling of loyalty to the Crown and of enduring affection to the institutions of the country which gave them birth. Let us suppose that by the end of the Session of 1870 the Irish Church and the Irish land questions are, by the consummate wisdom of Parliament, satisfactorily settled. Is everything accomplished? By no means. The great art of administration, as Napoleon justly called it, has to be exercised with mildness, with benevolence, with sympathy for the Irish people, but still with firmness, with strict justice, with an authority incapable of being either intimidated or cajoled. It will be a long time before Ireland can be governed in the slovenly manner in which the internal government of England is now administered. Where the spirit of insurrection appears in a habit of murdering landlords, agents, and obnoxious tenants, the people of the district must be deprived of arms, and special commissions of able Judges must administer to offenders speedy and stern justice. But let not the Irish suppose that their portion of the United Kingdom is to be darkened by the permanent absence of the rays of the Royal presence. Let the Prince of Wales appear in your country for two or three months annually, with £25,000 a year added to his income from the public revenue; and I am sure you will not be offended when I say that no Lord Lieutenant, no Chief Secretary, can do more to win the heart of the Irish people to permanent ties with England than the genial smile of the heir to the Crown.

AN AMERICAN MARRIAGE STORY.—There comes rather a good story of married life from America. The hero of it set out for Arkansas, leaving his wife at home. The lady, weary of the separation, wrote to her husband entreating his return. He begged that she would be patient, and pointed out that his absence, though irksome to both, was good for their mutual interests. Six months elapsed—then a whole year. At length, one fine evening, the husband returned, and knocked at the door of his house, expecting a royal welcome. "It is I, my adored one." "Who? you?" said the lady. "Don't you know your husband?" was the reply. "I have no husband," was the lady's rejoinder. "What do you mean?" cried the man. "Since you would not return," was the reply, "I sought and obtained a bill of divorce." "But"—the husband began to answer. "Withdraw, Sir!" said the lady, stopping him; "it is not right that a stranger should come here at this late hour." "Ungrateful!" "No recriminations." "Why," continued the man, "I came to lay the fortune I have made at your feet." "Get out!" was the only reply; "I do not mean to be compromised." So the man departed, and—fury in his heart—returned to Arkansas. After he had been there some time he had a chat one evening with General W—, who said to him, "How is it that a man of your position is not married?" "I do not know any woman here who would suit me," he replied. "But there must be lots in your native place," retorted the General. "You are right," said our friend; "I will go and see to-morrow." He set out, and six weeks afterwards he returned with a wife leaning on his arm. "Ah!" said the General, "you have done the deed, then; you have married?" "Pardon; I have re-married." "How? were you a widower?" "Nothing of the kind." "How, then? I do not understand you." "I have re-married my wife, who had obtained a bill of divorce against me. I courted her as if we had never known each other." "Married twice to the same woman!" cried the General. "You are incorrigible!"



**"BEST QUALITY."**

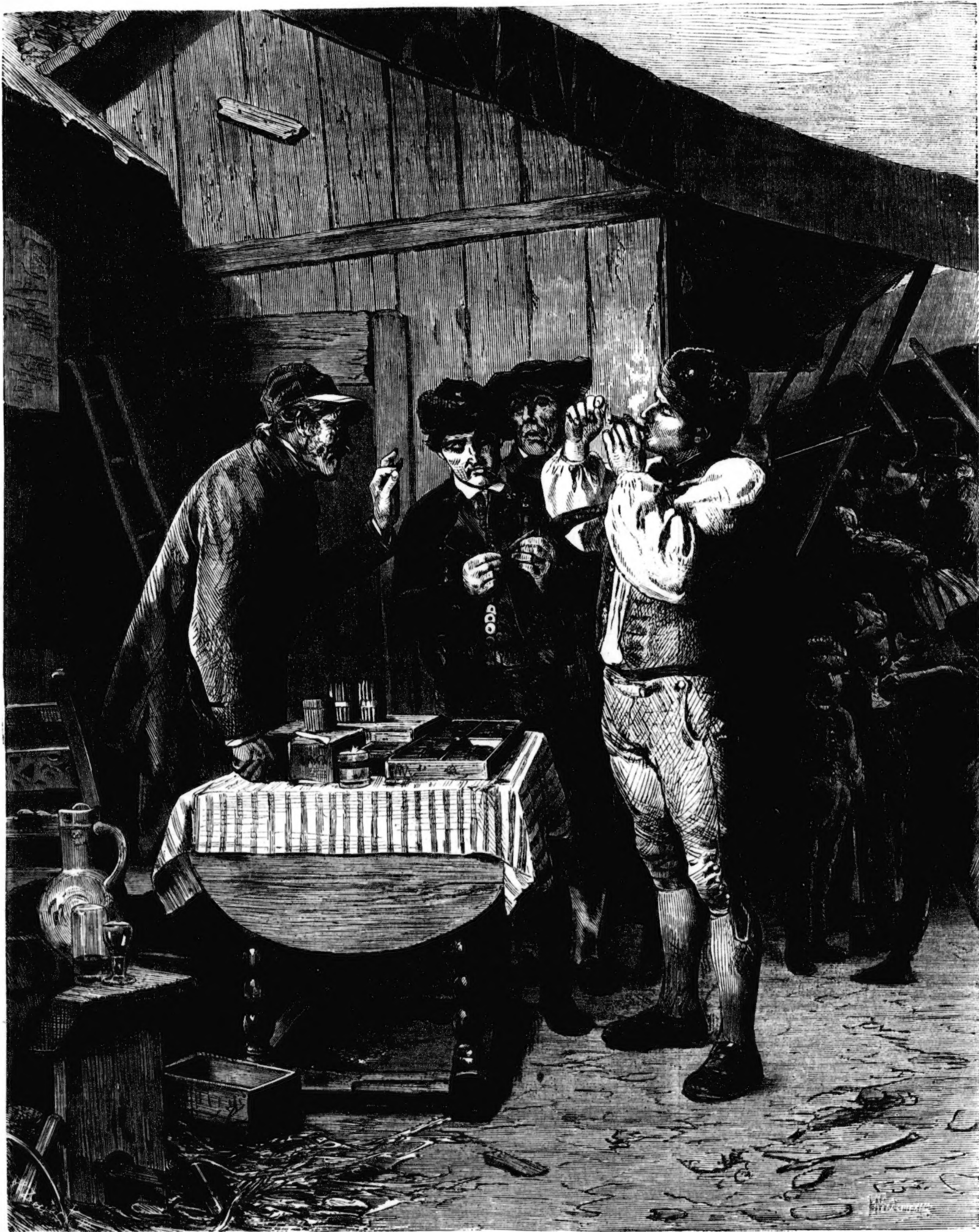
THE artist from whose latest picture our Illustration is taken occupies a very high position in that Dusseldorf school of painting to which so many good modern pictures are to be attributed. Although he is scarcely in his prime, Mr. Hidemann has given some excellent works to the world illustrative of the study and appreciation of home scenes and that picturesque side of common life which is his principal characteristic. It is true that in Germany the quaint customs and picturesque costumes of the people in the provinces afford ample material for the artist; and in the picture from which our Engraving is taken the scene of the primitive country fair and the important position of the cigar merchant's stall supply

an admirable subject for a simply humorous bit of character. In M. Hidemann's other works the same power of translating common things is displayed. In the "Dilettante Quartette," "The Champagne Flask," "Contraband," and several others, we note the hand and eye of a true artist; and in the picture now reproduced the same qualities will sustain his well-achieved reputation.

**TEMPLE AND BLACKFRIARS SECTION OF THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.**

We this week place before our readers an Engraving showing the works on the section of the Thames Embankment between the Temple and Blackfriars Bridge. The length of river wall to be

constructed for this portion of Mr. Bazalgette's great work is 925 ft. The embankment here is to be solid, similar in general design to the portion already executed, and there will be an inclined approach to Blackfriars Bridge, somewhat in the same style as that at the Westminster Bridge end. A wharf is to be formed on the river side of the roadway, on to which the City Gasworks will be able to land coals, and from which they can be conveyed by trucks through the arched passages under the road approach to Blackfriars Bridge and over the railway to the company's present premises. The formation of a solid embankment, in lieu of a viaduct which was at one time suggested, enables the Metropolitan Board of Works to continue the roadway on the embankment of its full width of 100 ft. all the way to Chatham-place, the original



THE CIGAR DEALER: "BEST QUALITY."—(FROM A PICTURE BY HIDE-MANN.)

intention of the Legislature being to make the road from the eastern end of the Temple to Chatham-place only 70 ft. in width. The contractor for this section of the embankment is Mr. W. Webster, and the sum at which this portion of the work has been taken is £126,500; but this includes the cost of forming the carriage-way and footway on the land side of the embankment roadway from Westminster Bridge to Blackfriars. The contractor is bound to complete the works within twelve months from the date of order to commence, but the recent accident to the dam will probably render this impracticable.

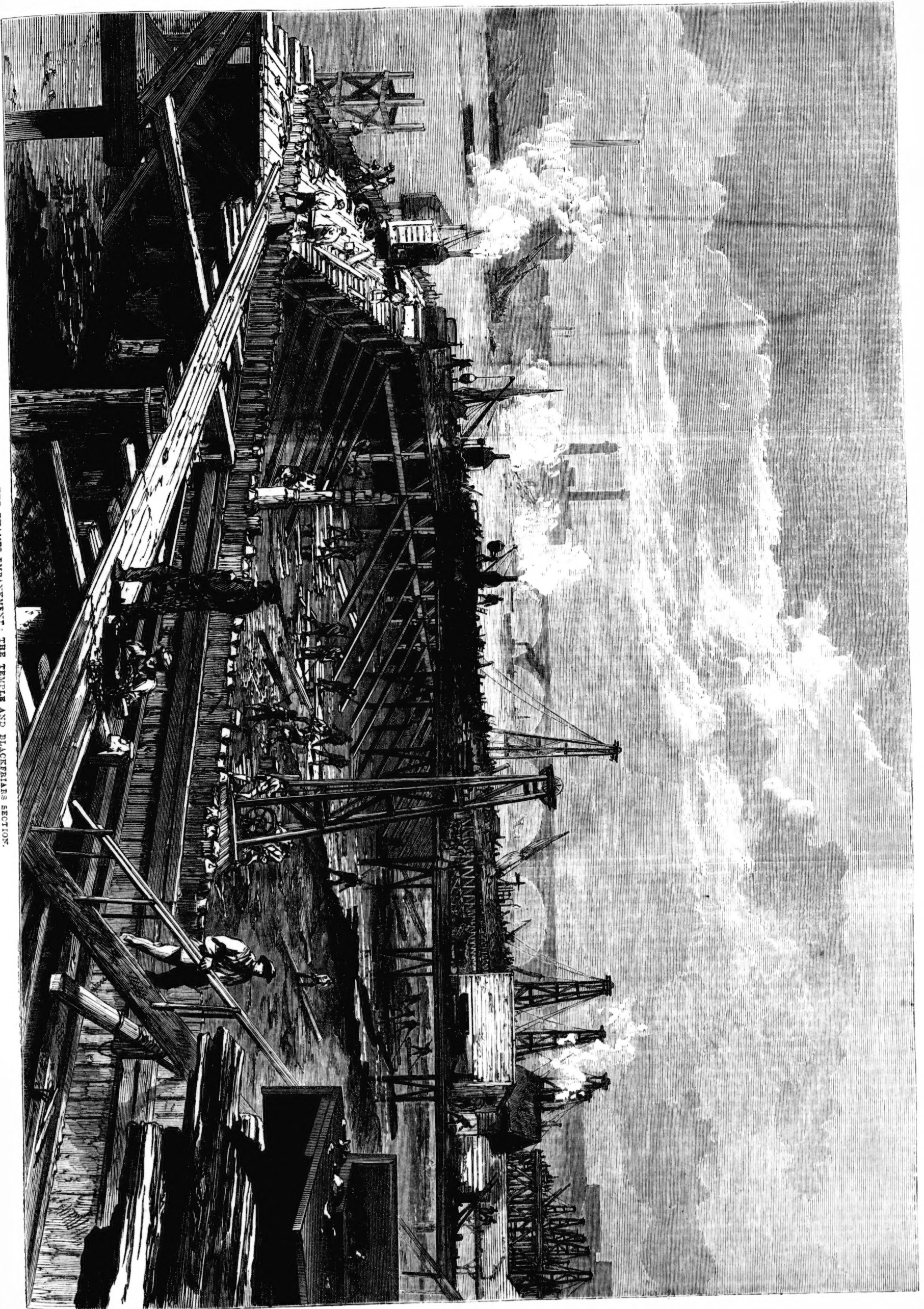
**FLOATING TELEGRAPH STATIONS.**

A scheme for providing telegraph stations in mid-channel, which has the approval of several leading scientific authorities, is, we believe, about to be considered by the Government and the Trinity Board. It is proposed to establish floating telegraph vessels, in

the first place, in the chops of the Channel between Sicily and Ushant, and subsequently at the southern entrance to St. George's Channel, as well as off the northern and southern extremities of the Irish coast. Submarine electric cables are to connect these vessels with the points of land nearest to them, so that passing ships, whether homeward or outward bound, will be put into telegraphic communication with all parts of Great Britain, with the Continent, and with America, when they are still forty or fifty miles from shore. Subsidiary to the main scheme are proposals for the landing of passengers at these floating stations, and for so transferring them to powerful local steamers plying to and from the nearest port, and for keeping on hand a stock of the most frequently needed stores. The main point, however, is uninterrupted electrical communication between ship and shore, and this is reported easy of accomplishment by such eminently practical authorities as Sir Samuel Canning, Mr. Latimer Clarke, and Mr. R. Sabine. It seems indeed, obvious that in the present advanced state of sub-

marine telegraphy there can be no serious obstacles to the laying a short cable, as proposed. The telegraph floating vessels are, it is suggested, to be built of wood, in water-tight compartments, and will be moored by a mushroom anchor, and with various arrangements of iron chain to relieve the downward drag on the bows. Lightning-conductors, gongs, horns, guns, fog-signals, warning-lights, and proper apparatus for day and night signalling, are to form portions of their fittings; and other arrangements for construction and equipment have been carefully considered. On every ground this proposition seems to merit the earnest consideration of our commercial and maritime authorities. The boon offered is so great, and, according to its originator, Captain Barrow, and the scientific people whose authority he quotes, its attainment is so easy, that one only wonders it has not taken a practical shape before. The hope of securing immediate and certain communication with ships in mid-channel in all weathers will gladden the hearts of merchants, and materially lessen the anxieties of Lloyd's.





THE THAMES EMBAKMENT: THE TOWER AND BLACKFRIARS SECTION.



## DOCKYARD REFORMS.

In connection with Mr. Childers's reform of naval administration, it is said that various measures long advocated by a school of earnest naval reformers are to be carried out at Portsmouth. They comprise the abolition of the offices of the Admiral-Superintendent of the dockyard, the Captain-Superintendent of the Naval Hospital at Haslar, and of the Royal Clarence Victualling-yard; the Master-Attendant at the Royal Clarence Victualling-yard; of one out of the two offices of Master-Attendant at the dockyard; the substitution of the three-decked ship Duke of Wellington for the three ships now employed in the harbour duties—the Victory, Duke of Wellington, and Asia; and a general reduction in all military and civil expenditure on all matters in the port that have to be provided for in the Navy Estimates. The abolition of the office of Admiral-Superintendent will not only do away with the absurd anomaly of having a seaman as the head of the factories and workshops of a great public establishment for the construction and repair of ships of war and their engines, but will be accompanied by a centralisation of responsible power and a reduction of useless forms and accounts. Equally beneficial and reinvigorating will be the abolition of the office of the Captain-Superintendent over the Royal Naval Hospital at Haslar and of the Clarence Victualling-yard, where the duties are actually confined to the Superintending Storekeeper in the receipt and issue of provisions and stores to the Navy? In the first instance, the removal of the Captain-Superintendent would place the direction of the hospital in the hands of its natural authority—a competent medical officer; and this step, it is stated, would be immediately followed by a reorganisation of the existing staff on a basis that would make the working of the hospital more in accordance with that of some of our great London hospitals, by which greatly-increased economy and efficiency would be secured. It is enough to observe, without going into further comparative details of the present working of the two systems, that, whereas the cost per bed per annum in the London hospitals is believed to be somewhere between £45 and £50, the cost at the Royal Naval Hospital at Haslar amounts to nearly £94. Next, as to the usefulness of a Captain-Superintendent at the Victualling-yard, no one, except, perhaps, officers looking forward to such an appointment, will possibly be found hardy enough to say that he can be of any service whatever in such a position, except in signing forms, of the contents or accuracy of which he must be in the main very ignorant, or in acting generally as an obstructive in the way of real work and efficiency. Evidently the Captain or the Superintending Storekeeper is out of place. The Master-Attendant of Clarence Victualling-yard holds a position that is all but a sinecure, and it is now a matter of surprise that the appointment should have been tolerated so long as it has been. There is attached to the yard a small steamer for conveying provisions and stores afloat to ships, and also two or three miserable sailing lighters; but the present working staff of the yard is more than sufficient for their management without the intervention of a highly-paid official. In fact, as in many other instances, these appointments of Captains-Superintendent and Masters-Attendant over hospitals and victualling stores are so many pegs on which to hang highly-paid and sinecure appointments for the benefit of naval officers, who, if they deserve extra consideration for services rendered during their professional career, should be otherwise rewarded for them. At Portsmouth dockyard, separated by the width of the harbour only from the Clarence Victualling-yard, there are two Masters-Attendant, and here it is said to be the intention to reduce the number to one. One Master-Attendant would certainly be sufficient for the ordinary work of the yard, and on any extraordinary occasion a signal from the dockyard would bring half a dozen of his brother officers to his assistance from the ships in the harbour, all of whom, no doubt, would be glad of the chance to vary the daily monotony of their official life in harbour by an hour's bustling work. There are two rumours current relative to the Steam Reserve establishment at Portsmouth; one being that it will retain its present form, but will be taken off the books of the Asia—the present flagship of the Admiral-Superintendent of the yard—and placed on the books of the flagship of the Port Admiral, and thus brought more immediately under the latter officer's command; the other being to the effect that the Steam Reserve and the steam factory establishments will be amalgamated. The former seems the more probable of the two rumours, considering that the present destination of the steam factory is a subordinate one in the Master Shipwright's department of the yard. If the Steam Reserve force should therefore become attached to the flagship for the time being of the Port Admiral, the present flagship, the Victory, owing to her exceedingly limited space between decks, would be entirely unsuited for the double purpose of a receiving ship for both seamen and stokers. Under these conditions some larger vessel would have to be selected as flagship; but this change may depend in a great measure on other contemplated changes in the harbour ships, the not improbable solution being that one ship will be selected to perform the duties of the port, or the greater part of them, now performed by the Victory, the Duke of Wellington, and the Asia, and thus the expense of maintaining two large staffs of officers, with a large number of men, will be dispensed with, as also the maintenance of the two ships. This latter plan will be rendered more easy of accomplishment if Haslar gun-boat yard should be utilised as a general boat-building yard for the Navy. The engineers and mechanical stokers that would then be borne on the books of the flagship would be employed at their own work in the factory at Haslar, and the majority of them would have their own homes on shore, neither desiring ship nor barrack accommodation at the expense of the Government. As a measure of economy, the officers and men so employed at Haslar would be all working at their respective trades, practically improving their professional capabilities and employed remuneratively for Government. The "facts" accomplished at present at Portsmouth in the way of economising reforms may be very briefly told. Mr. Cradock, master shipwright, retires at once on full pay superannuation allowance, and will be succeeded by Mr. W. Braham Robinson, valuer and inspector of dockyard work to the Controller's office, who enters upon his duties at Portsmouth under the designation of "master shipwright and engineer," at a salary of £700 per annum and a residence. Mr. W. Lynn, the present acting chief engineer in charge of the steam factory department, becomes assistant engineer to the master shipwright, at a salary of £500 per annum and a residence. The two establishments thus become amalgamated, the engineer becoming subordinate to the shipwright department. Mr. Andrew Murray, late chief engineer of Portsmouth dockyard and steam factory, will in future fill the office of inspector of workshops and factories, at a salary, it is understood, of £800 per annum; and, as such, his duties will extend over all the dockyards and naval establishments.

A considerable reduction of expenditure, under the heading of dockyard police, may be expected in the forthcoming Naval Estimates. In consequence of the early closing of the dockyards at Woolwich and Deptford, it is understood that the metropolitan police will be withdrawn from the various Government establishments throughout the kingdom, and that the place of this numerous body will be filled by draughts from the Royal Marines.

Further retrenchment at Sheerness dockyard is announced. The offices of assistant master attendant, assistant master shipwright, and chief inspector of machinery are to be abolished. By the suppression of these posts a saving of £1450 a year will be effected.

An order has been received at Chatham dockyard announcing that the office of second assistant master shipwright at that establishment is to be abolished. The salary was £400 per annum, with an official residence in the dockyard. The duties of the office are to be discharged by the senior foreman of the yard, who is to have

an addition made to his salary of £50 per annum, raising it to £300 a year. The office of one of the five foremen of the yard at Chatham is also to be abolished, as soon as a vacancy shall occur at that or any other Government dockyard. At Plymouth it is reported that Captain George O. Willis, C.B., is preparing to leave his command of the Indus guardship of steam reserve in Hamoaze for some active post at Whitehall. Captain George W. Preedy, C.B., at present in command of the flagship Royal Adelaide, will also, it is stated, be transferred to the Indus, and will superintend the gunnery-ship Cambridge and the Canopus, both in Hamoaze, which will very much decrease the expenditure there. Rear-Admiral Drummond, C.B., will probably resign the duty of Admiral Superintendent of Devonport dockyard for a superior appointment in the Admiralty, and it is doubtful whether a successor will be appointed to his present post.

Copying-machines are at once to be introduced into the offices at Chatham dockyard, and the heads of departments have been called upon to report whether, as a consequence, the services of any of the clerks and writers can be dispensed with.

Mr. Childers, in a second Admiralty circular, refers to the notorious fact that naval officers seeking appointments or promotion, and civilian employees seeking an increase of salary or other advantages, have their cases frequently brought before the Admiralty by members of Parliament and other persons possessing political influence. The obvious evils attendant upon such a practice are pointed out, and it is intimated that for the future any attempt to apply pressure of this kind to the board "will be treated by their Lordships as an admission that the case is not deserving of consideration on its own merits, and the application will be dealt with accordingly."

## CITY RECORDS.

It is beginning to be the same with the Corporation of London as with all wealthy bodies, individual or collective: they do not know how rich they are, and to a certain extent they do not care. We can all form some notion of the amount in hard cash the Corporation possesses, and they have, doubtless, a tolerably correct estimate of it themselves; but it appears they are quite as richly endowed with literary as with pecuniary treasures, and of this, till lately, few people seem to have been aware, while still fewer have cared to spread their knowledge. To Mr. Orridge, late chairman of the library committee, belongs the credit of having called the attention of the Corporation, and we may say of the public, to the matter. Mr. Orridge has made some perfectly astounding discoveries in regard to the quantities of valuable records that are lying neglected in out-of-the-way corners of the various offices of the Corporation. In the City solicitor's office, he says, in a letter recently addressed to the Common Council, "there are voluminous records that have never been examined or indexed"—"the comptroller's muniment-room has no light in it, and in broad daylight he is compelled to send his clerks there with a lantern; it is choke full, and looking for a deed there is like looking for a needle in a haystack." It is as bad in the other offices; there exists in the Chamberlain's department a room full of all sorts of papers tumbled together in the wildest confusion, half forgotten, and altogether neglected. They have lain in that upper chamber over eighty years, since they were pitched there to save them from a fire. There are valuable historical documents in the town clerk's office, the proper study of which would throw sharp side-lights on every part of our history, from the Tudor time to the Protectorate and William III.'s day. Six hundred and sixty-two letters of this collection alone refer exclusively to the Elizabethan era, and are faithful copies of originals by the Queen, Burghley, Bacon, Cecil—in short, most of the statesmen and courtiers of the time. What a treasure would these be—not to historians alone, but to gentlemen in search of topics for the magazines—if they were brought within the general reach, as Mr. Orridge suggests. Who, for instance, would not like to see the record of the letter sent "from the Lords of the Council to the Lord Mayor, for permitting plays to be performed on holidays after evening prayer, and for appointing some fit person who may consider and allow of such plays only as be fit to yield honest recreation, and no example of evil"? And who would not like to know in what terms the Earl of Warwick, writing to his "very loving friends the Lord Mayor of London from the Court," expresses his surprise "at the prohibition of playing pieces by his servant, and desires that more favour may be shown him therein"? These records are so interesting and so valuable that the thanks of the public are due to Mr. Orridge for his spirited endeavour to effect their rescue and preservation.

THE COURT.—The Queen will hold a Court at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, March 2, to receive the Corps Diplomatique, her Majesty's Ministers, and other official personages, with the ladies of their families, who will receive notifications of her Majesty's gracious intention through the Lord Chamberlain. The Queen will also hold a Levée at the same place on Friday, March 5; a Drawingroom on Wednesday, March 10; and more Drawingrooms later in the season, the dates of which will be hereafter announced. Gentlemen in attendance upon the ladies of their families will be admitted to pass at her Majesty's Drawingrooms. It is expected that ladies and gentlemen will not avail themselves of more than one occasion of paying their respects to her Majesty. Levees will be held at St. James's Palace by her Royal Highness Prince Arthur, on her Majesty's behalf, on Friday, March 12, and on Friday, March 19.

A PROPHECY FULFILLED.—Some credit is due to Scotchmen in that the Archbishop of Canterbury having now for some weeks been raised to his high place, they have not pressed upon our notice the fact that he is a Scotchman. Whenever a Scot attains to a great position in England we generally are made to know unmistakably that he is a Scotchman, and sometimes even it is suggested that his success is due to the fact of his nationality. That the Primate is a Scotchman has come to be talked and written about in connection with a curious ancient prophecy. In an epilogue delivered at the Globe Theatre in 1601, by Richard Burbage, there occurred the following sentences:—

A Scot our King? The limping State  
That day must need a crutch.  
What next? In time a Scot will prate  
As Primate of our Church.  
When such shall be, why then you'll see  
That day it will be found  
The Saxon down through London town  
Shall burrow under ground.

Has it not come true? Dr. Tait is Archbishop of Canterbury, and we travel about London underground.

LOCAL TAXATION.—The Warwickshire Chamber of Agriculture, last Saturday, had under consideration Mr. H. Genge Andrews's proposal to assess to the poor rate all income arising from personal as well as real property; and the amendment to be moved on Feb. 2, on behalf of the Council of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, to the effect that it is premature to adopt any particular remedy for the unequal incidence of the poor rate before the whole subject has been submitted to a Parliamentary inquiry. The Earl of Camperdown, in initiating the discussion on local taxation, alluded to the diverse opinions entertained respecting the proportion of taxes paid by the land, some persons maintaining that the land almost entirely escaped taxation, while others held that the land paid more than two thirds of the taxes. His Lordship quoted various statistics from the last annual return of the Poor-Law Board and other official papers with a view of showing the unequal incidence of the poor rate. The noble Earl contented himself with a concise statement of facts without expressing a strong opinion on either side of the question. Mr. C. N. Newdegate, M.P., admitted that the tendency of modern legislation was towards a national rate, but cautioned the Chamber against the danger of substituting central authority for local government. He expressed his belief that local government was more conducive to economy than centralisation, and that the soul of economy in all that related to the poor law was the system of local administration, with a sense of personal responsibility on the part of the administrators. Sir Robert Hamilton advocated the separation from the relief account of items unconnected with poor relief, and the establishment of financial boards. Lord Leigh expressed his approval of financial boards as a matter of expediency to satisfy the ratepayers. The Earl of Warwick differed from Lord Leigh, and alluded to the evidence on the subject adduced before a Committee moved for by Mr. Milner Gibson, and upon which he (the Earl of Warwick), Mr. Villiers, and the late Mr. Cobden sat. The Chamber unanimously passed a resolution in favour of a Parliamentary inquiry as to the incidence of local taxation.

## KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

We have before us a circular, signed by the vice-chairman of King's College Hospital, which affords an admirable example of the force of simplicity. It is so short that it may be placed under the table before our readers:—

My hospital owes its bankers £1500; it owes its tradesmen £2600 (with Michaelmas last); and we have only £100 at our bankers'. Our income is £2500, to meet annual liabilities above £3000. We must find £2000 of the above liabilities in the next few weeks. I do most earnestly beg you to help us; even a few shillings in postage-stamps will be heartily welcome to the committee.

The question cannot fail to arise in the minds of some readers, why should the committee undertake liabilities to the extent of nearly four times their income? We can best reply to it by saying that the hospital under their control is a necessary adjunct to King's College, and that the closing of its wards, or even any great reduction in the number of its beds, would render it unable to fulfil the requirements of the various boards of medical examination. In order to keep faith with the medical students at present under tuition, and in order that King's College may hold its place as a medical school, the hospital must be maintained in a state of complete efficiency. The committee may be said, therefore, to be under absolute engagements for the next two or three years, and to be influenced also, as regards the future, by the strongest possible considerations of public expediency.

The very reasons that thus render the existence of the hospital, in the conventional sense at least, a matter of necessity afford indirectly the best grounds on which any such institution can appeal for public sympathy and support. The wards contain only 160 beds, and every one of these beds is imperatively required to contain a patient whose case affords materials for profitable teaching. In some hospitals many beds are filled by the nominees of subscribers, and servants or workpeople are kept as in-patients to the full extent of an allotted term lest offence should be given by their being earlier discharged. At King's College every bed is occupied by urgent sickness, and every shilling that is spent upon the institution is spent in the relief of actual and severe suffering. The great reputation as an operator of a prominent member of the surgical staff brings to Portugal-street, from all parts of the world, patients whose cases comparatively few surgeons would have the boldness to undertake or the skill to cure, and hence it befalls that the numerous students of the school of medicine are privileged to witness, and, in their degree, to promote, some of the greatest achievements of the healing art. It would be nothing less than a national misfortune to curtail the opportunities of a teacher who is employed, not only in the direct alleviation or removal of some of the worst forms of human misery, but also in the daily and systematic preparation of other men for the discharge of similar functions.

The difficulties of King's College Hospital are due in very great measure to its secluded situation. As a rule, it is seen by none but lawyers, and it is a point in its favour that lawyers who do see it have always been its best friends. The committee have long been looking forward with hopefulness to the completion of the new Law Courts as an event that would bring their building under the notice of the public, and that would thus confer upon them some of the advantages that such hospitals as St. George's or the new St. Thomas's must derive from the conspicuousness of their respective positions. The proposal of the "river site" was heard in Portugal-street with dismay.

We cannot believe, however, that so valuable an institution is in any real danger of being allowed to languish, or that the mere accident of situation will permanently injure it in the estimation of the charitable. The best place for a hospital is where it is most easily accessible to those who most require its aid; and this condition is obviously best fulfilled in streets that are somewhat removed from the ordinary resorts of the more wealthy classes.

Notwithstanding the present difficulties, moreover, the past history of the institution is not discouraging. In the first place, the actual building has been provided at a cost, we are told, of little less than £100,000. The very appeal that we print bears witness to an existing income of £2500; and there can be little doubt that a wider knowledge of the necessities and of the special claims of the charity will cause this income largely to increase.—Times.

THE CONSERVATIVES OF EXETER have just set on foot a working men's association which is to "counteract the inroads of democracy." Sir Stafford Northcote has become a life member. The society provides a reading-room well supplied with Conservative literature. It is to be followed by a Conservative land society, a building and investment society, and a penny weekly newspaper.

A NEW BONNET MATERIAL.—At a meeting of the Royal Botanical Society, on Saturday, the assistant secretary, Mr. Sowerby, exhibited a bonnet which had been received from Jamaica. It was made of a novel material, said to be the skin of the leaf of the Indian dagger plant. Mr. Sowerby had found, by microscopic examination, that the substance agreed in structure with the cuticle of the Yucca. The skin has the appearance of glazed tissue paper or very thin wood shavings. As it is exceedingly fragile, it would scarcely be suitable for clothing which is meant to be of any durability. The largest samples are 1½ ft. to 2 ft. long, and as many inches broad.

THE DEAN OF CALLISLE AND MR. MACKONCHIE.—The Dean of Carlisle has published a protest against the letter written by the Rev. A. H. Mackonochie upon the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the St. Alban's case. Dr. Close says the letter is a "criminal document," "couched in language of intolerable arrogance and indecency," and asks if there is no remedy against such a libel upon her Majesty, the Archbishops of the Church, and the chief Judges of the land. He expresses a hope that "this convicted offender," whose spirit is chafed by defeat, will on reflection perceive that "he has published words which every good man of every sect and every party must blush to read. Observing that Mr. Mackonochie avows that he remains in the Church in order to "move every power to obtain a dissolution of this ungodly alliance" between Church and State, the Dean says, "If these are his principles, and this the spirit of the men who are to stand at the helm of our beloved Church when divorced from the State, if the English Church Union and the Ritualist faction can have their way in these matters, it is time that all true-hearted members of the Reformed Church should rouse themselves and determine whether such seditious slanders as these are to be tolerated within the Church."

TELEGRAPH BLUNDERS.—The Indian papers received this week contain some more specimens of the style in which European news is served up to the Indian public by the Indo-European telegraph. One telegram announces that "Turkey has raised the blockade of Pyria. Upon the intervention of the French commander the Masses were permitted to proceed to Athens." Another states that "Ministers reflected," and that Mr. Gladstone has, amongst other things, promised "to remedy the grievances of ratepayers' clauses and secure free voting repatriation on alien churches in England and Ireland." In a telegram which professes to give a summary of Mr. Bright's explanation of the reasons why he declined to accept the office of Secretary of State for India the following passage occurs:—"He delivers an opinion of the Government of India announced in 1858, which were bound, but in advance of public sentiment. He could not, he says, freely superintend an administration whose principles he condemned and was unable to amend. Moreover, he could not *seemly* counsel himself with the great military departments of the Indian Government." The Porte is said to have rejected "a conference of the American Minister to protect the good interest," and a paragraph of Spanish news reads as follows:—"Boguen manifesty." The Duc de Montpensier disclaims any ambitious ideas, and covets only the honour of belonging to Spain.

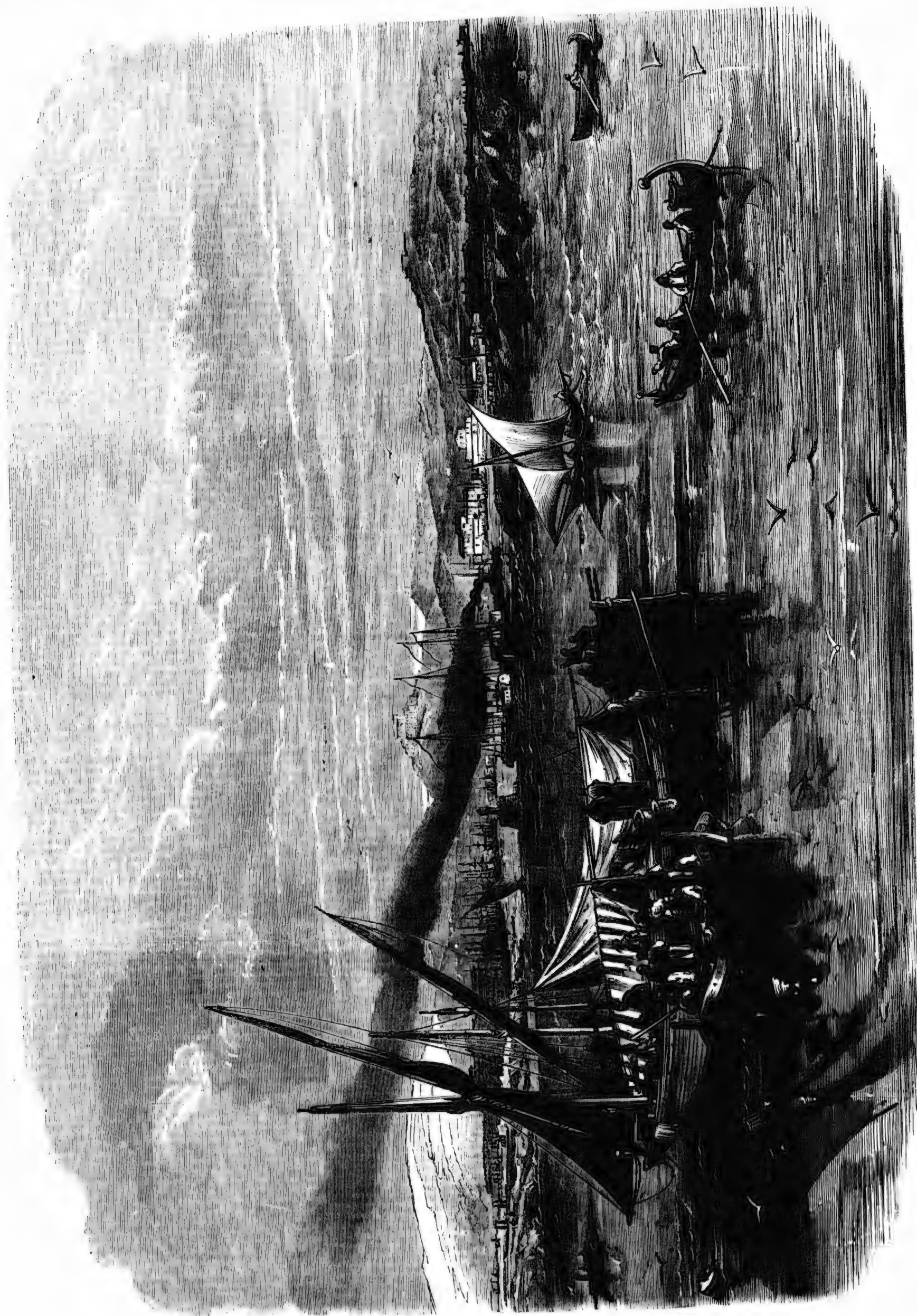
A SCHOOL-HOUSE SACKED.—A squabble of the most extraordinary kind has lately taken place at the village of Kirkbampton, six miles from Carlisle. Some time ago the minister of the parish, the Rev. J. Pattinson, was summoned before the local magistrates for assaulting the schoolmaster and attempting to eject him forcibly from the school. The case was referred, and the arbitrators decided in favour of the schoolmaster. Since then things have not been over pleasant, the party of which the minister is the head wishing to place the school under Government rule. To this the majority of the inhabitants, with whom the master is popular, object. The minister's party, however, seized the school during the master's absence on Christmas holidays, and completely sacked it. They removed everything, including desks, forms, cupboards, &c., and even removed paving-stones in order to get out the fixtures. They took the old lock off the door and put on a new one, the key for which they took away with them. Subsequently the master's party broke into the school and left it open. This was followed by the minister's party carrying off doors and window-shutters; and ultimately the youths of the village were seized with the destructive fever of their superiors and demolished the windows. The place is now a complete wreck; and in the mean time there is no establishment in the neighbourhood for the education of the youth.



## Literature.

ST. ALBAN'S, HOLBORN.—At St. Alban's, Holborn, on Sunday, Mr. Mackenzie delivered an address embodying his view of the circumstances arising out of the judgment of the Privy Council. The reverend gentleman maintained that by this decision a most oppressive and unchristianlike had been done to the Church, adding that, under such circumstances, he should obey the law which had been laid down. The Church was in alliance with the State, and churchmen would be contented, for a while, to forgo their rights rather than seem to disobey as citizens. He referred at length to the several points which had been ruled against him, and particularly complained of the prohibition of lighted candles during the celebration of the communion. Mr. Mackenzie, in conclusion, described the form of services which will be carried out at St. Alban's in future.





THE PIERS AT ATHENS.





M. PETER DELYANNI, GREEK MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

## PETER AND JOHN DELYANNI.

THE contradictory accounts which are furnished as to the probable termination of the Cretan insurrection render it dangerous to prophesy what may be the effects of the recent Conference. One telegram states that the insurrection is virtually at an end; another, that the insurgent chieftains declare nothing shall induce them to stay their efforts to avenge the murder in cold blood of the women and children slain in their villages by order of the Turkish commanders, and that no earthly power shall prevent the union of Crete with Greece. Then, again, we learn that a special Envoy is on his way to America in reference to their national difficulties.

Throughout the recent affairs between Turkey and Greece the two men whose portraits appear in our present Number have occupied a prominent position amidst their countrymen. The brothers Delyanni are descended from an illustrious Greek family, and cherish all the national traditions, although their education and experience have served to imbue them with modern progressive ideas. The Conference, and the events which preceded and produced it, have brought them still more into notice, since both of them are so thoroughly acquainted with Greco-Turkish affairs as to have been constantly employed in the attempted settlement of those questions on which nobody has yet been able to procure a satisfactory agreement. Mr. Peter Delyanni is the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, and may be said

to have prepared the brief on the Greek side for the consideration of the Conference—a brief which he intrusted to M. Rangabé to take to Paris. Mr. Delyanni was born in 1814, and has twice occupied the position of Greek Minister at Constantinople. His brother, Mr. John Delyanni, is three years younger, having been born in 1817. For many years he filled the office of Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and afterwards succeeded his brother at Constantinople. He was Minister there at the time of the diplomatic rupture between Greece and Turkey, and the journals have republished his despatches to his Government, and have spoken in high terms of the great ability he displayed in his representative capacity. When, in last November, the Sultan gave him his passports, he at once returned to Athens, where he has since resided, and where he has been regarded as one of the principal promoters of the movement which has resulted in the discussion of the national affairs and prospects.

The Engraving on page 76 represents the Piræus, the port of Athens, which, had the Conference of Paris not sat, would probably have witnessed scenes that might have recalled some of the stirring events of long-past ages; though perhaps not much would have been added to the ancient glories of the spot had the Turks made an attack upon it with their fleet—an event, indeed, which is not impossible even yet, should the Greeks prove refractory, and refuse to accept the declarations agreed to by the conclave recently assembled in the French capital.

## THE LATE OUTBREAK AT MALAGA.

As has already been stated in our columns, the recent lamentable outbreak at Malaga was the result of a sort of misunderstanding. The armed volunteers thought General Caballero de Rodas meant to break up the corps entirely, whereas he only designed to reorganise them. The following is the official account of the unhappy affair:—

"On the morning of the 30th ult., so soon as the arrival of General Caballero de Rodas at the town of Antiquera was known in Malaga, the National Guard began to assume a hostile attitude, erecting barricades and occupying important positions. General Pavia, the military commander of the place, arrived at midnight on the 29th, and assumed command on the following morning. In view of the attitude of the militia, he made his dispositions accordingly, causing the troops to occupy those strategical points which would be useful should the revolt have to be suppressed. Brigadier Pavia issued an address to the volunteers in arms, reminding them of the order to return to their homes and abandon the barricades, and thus avoid compelling him to place the town in a state of siege. Several of the honourable volunteers, following the counsel of the Brigadier, retired to their homes, and two battalions proceeded to place themselves at the disposition of the alcalde; but those of the volunteers who had revolted and were in the majority concentrated themselves in the Trinity and Perchel quarters, which they fortified with barricades. The night of Dec. 30 passed off quietly; the authorities used all possible means of persuasion, but the rebels still kept up their hostile attitude; still, no open acts of hostility had as yet been committed. On the 31st, very early in the morning, the commander-in-chief of the army of Andalusia arrived with his troops at the Malaga railway station, and some hours after-

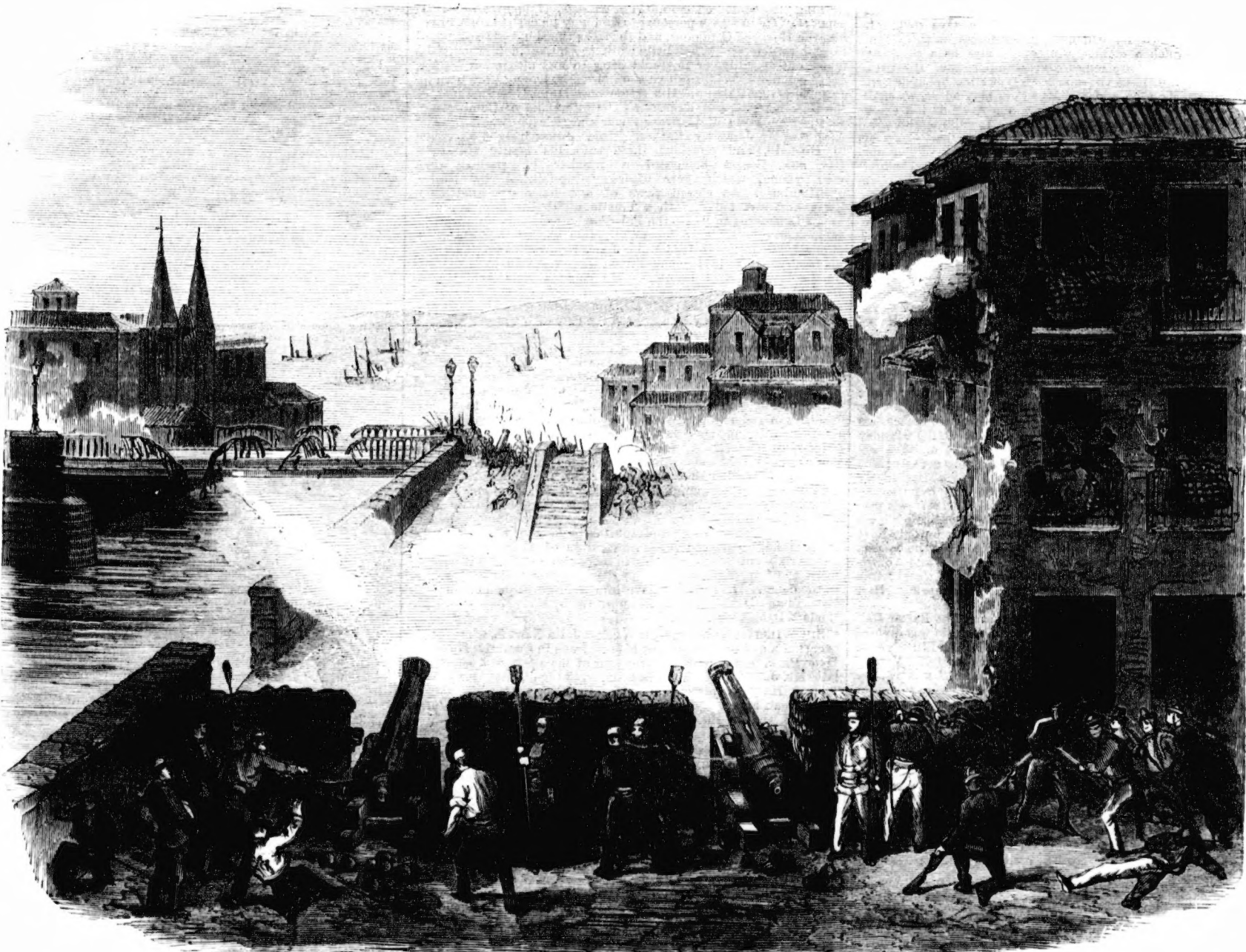


M. JOHN DELYANNI, GREEK AMBASSADOR AT CONSTANTINOPLE AT THE TIME OF THE RUPTURE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

wards, upon hearing that the insurgents were in possession of a large portion of the town, he issued the following proclamation:—

"Inhabitants of Malaga!—the attitude assumed by a certain portion of the citizen militia, without waiting for the communication of my instructions relative to its reorganisation, which instructions are identical with those laid down on Nov. 17, compels me to the sad necessity of issuing the following orders:—1. The town and province of Malaga are declared in a state of siege. 2. With the exception of the two battalions and a few of the companies who have respected the law, the volunteers in this town who are in possession of arms are required to surrender their arms in the course of to-day. 3. The military governor of the place will announce the localities where the surrender of the arms is to be made. 4. I also grant the same a delay of one day, during which the foreign Consuls and well-disposed persons can leave the town. Inhabitants of Malaga!—The means of attack which, upon the least resistance being made, are at my disposal, will cause, to my great sorrow, the ruin and desolation of your town. The chastisement of the guilty persons who have disobeyed their proper leaders, and have even desired to kill them, will be the more exemplary and terrible in proportion to the resistance they offer to the injunctions of the commander-in-chief of the army of operation of Andalusia and Granada."

"Brigadier Pavia, with the troops of the garrison at Malaga,



THE LATE OUTBREAK AT MALAGA: COMBAT AT PASEILLO SANTO DOMINGO.



occupied immediately afterwards the custom-house, Alcazaba, the forts of San José and Del Espigon, the Bank, the Municipality, San Augustin, the Episcopal Palace, the Cathedral, and the quarters of Levante, Capuchinos, Merced, and Trinity. The proclamation of the commander-in-chief produced for a time a favourable impression among the more docile; but the insurgents, seeing their comrades abandon the barricades, by spreading alarming reports to the effect that a republic had been proclaimed in various parts of Andalusia, succeeded in reanimating and encouraging the vacillating ones, who returned to the barricades and prepared for the contest. Some of the insurgents had rushed to the Espigon battery to seize the guns. An officer in command of two companies of a regiment had been dispatched to that battery with wise and persuasive instructions to counsel the insurgents to desist from their scheme. The soldiers were received with shots, which were returned. The engagement lasted about an hour and a half. Two war schooners anchored in the port took part in the fight.

"At the same time, in the afternoon of the 31st, the battalion of the Barbastro Chasseurs, who during the day had been able to patrol, freely moving through the town, were attacked at the Capuchinos. The Iberia Regiment and two companies of volunteers, under the orders of a Major, kept up a fight against the troops. The barricades were taken at the point of the bayonet, and at 9 p.m. the insurgents were put to flight. In addition to the proclamation of the commander-in-chief, it was announced to the foreign Consuls that early on the following day the insurgents would be attacked in a more energetic and decisive manner should they not have laid down their arms. Early in the morning of the 1st inst. Colonel Burgos, at the head of some troops, went out to post the proclamation of the commander-in-chief, when he was fired upon, and from that moment the struggle continued without ceasing.

"At nine o'clock a chief of the insurgents presented himself to the military governor to announce the surrender of the arms. He demanded a fresh delay, and made certain propositions which were deemed inadmissible, and rejected by the governor, who enjoined the insurgents to lay down their arms in a quarter of an hour. At the end of that time the fire recommenced. The fort and the vessels of the fleet directed their fire upon the Trinity quarter, where the rebellion had been concentrated. An hour later the troops of General Caballero attacked that quarter; and, after a severe contest which lasted until night, the troops occupied the Trinity and Perchel quarters, and the Tetuan and San Domingo bridges over the Guadalmédina, carrying also the Alameda and the districts down to the coast, the Place del Mariscal, the garden of Huerto and Los Claveles, and all the houses situated on both banks of the river. General Pavia, who was waiting in his position the time when he should operate in support of the attack of the commander-in-chief, formed a column when he saw that the Tetuan bridge was carried, and advanced to secure a position at the Sea-gate and the Rue Neuve. Having there met the troops of General Caballero, who were marching to the same point, he relinquished that plan, and fell back upon the Rue Santa Maria, directing his course to the Place de la Constitution, and seized the adjacent houses. By this time night had set in, and after a hot fire he succeeded in making a number of prisoners. More than 600 insurgents fell into the hands of the troops, who fought with the greatest bravery, and emulated each other in their cheerfulness and serenity. The barricades were carried at the point of the bayonet, and the point-blank volleys which were discharged from the ranks of the rioters could not for a moment arrest the course of the brave soldiers. The commander-in-chief still retains the positions captured, and if, as is hardly possible, there should still be to-day some men so blind as to persevere in their rash resistance, they will be again attacked with the greatest energy. The insurgents had great defensive resources, and munitions of war of all kinds, all of which were captured."

#### OPERA AND CONCERTS.

WE are in great want of a little operatic news just now. Her Majesties Theatre is being rebuilt; but no one seems to know who is to take charge of it when finished. In the meanwhile rumours are in circulation of a coalition between Mr. Gye and Mr. Mapleson, who, it is said, will unite their forces at the Royal Italian Opera. Such a combination would give us a company which would be almost too strong for working purposes. However, no official announcement of the reported alliance has yet appeared. Whatever course Mr. Gye and Mr. Mapleson may adopt, we shall no doubt have two Italian operas this summer, as during every summer for the last three-and-twenty years. London is the only respectable capital in Europe where for more than half the year no operatic performance of any kind takes place. When our operatic performances do begin, however, it seems to be thought that we cannot have too much of them. Instead of two complete opera companies every summer, how unfortunate it is that we cannot have one opera company all the year round! What manager, however, could be found sufficiently "enterprising" to keep open a musical theatre in London during the winter months?

Since writing the above we have met with a paragraph in a French journal, *Le Gaulois*, in which it is stated that the fusion between the two operas has been positively decided on. The joint company, as described by *Le Gaulois*, will be neither too large nor too small, and will certainly be one of the best companies ever formed. It will include, we are told, Mlle. Adeline Patti, Mlle. Christine Nilsson, Mlle. Titiens, and Madame Trebelli; MM. Mario, Mongini, Graziani, and Santley. English names are never, by any chance, correctly printed in French newspapers; and Mr. Santley figures in *Le Gaulois* as "Mr. Stanley."

Although the English seem to have less taste for operatic music than any other nation in Europe, it cannot be said that they are careless about the best kind of concert music—witness the success of the classical concerts at the Crystal Palace, of the Monday Popular Concerts at St. James's Hall, and of the oratorio performances at Exeter Hall. At the first of the new series of the Crystal Palace Concerts the attendance, thanks to a particularly interesting programme, was very numerous. The Reformation Symphony, first produced at the Crystal Palace in 1867, was performed, and Herr Joachim played the adagio from Spohr's sixth concerto and Beethoven's concerto entire. That alone would have been sufficient to attract a very large audience; but the concert also comprised Weber's overture to "Abon-Hassan" and Auber's overture to "Zanetta," besides a certain amount of vocal music entrusted to Miss Bailey (a successful debutante) and Herr Wallenreiter.

The recent performance of "Judas Maccabeus" at Exeter Hall calls for no particular mention. The soprano music was divided between Madame Lemmens-Sherrington and Miss Edith Wynne; the tenor music between Mr. Montem Smith and Mr. Vernon Rigby, who, in the martial air "Sound an alarm!" was warmly applauded. It is known that Mr. Sims Reeves declines to take part in the performances of the Sacred Harmonic Society as long as the present abnormally high pitch (supposing such thing as a "diapason normal" really to exist) is maintained. But his talent will not be lost to us. Mr. Reeves has for some time past been announced to sing at a series of oratorio performances to be given by Mr. Barnby, at which the "normal diapason," as recognised by Rossini, Meyerbeer, and Auber, will be observed.

We hear from Paris that Wagner is daily expected to arrive to superintend the rehearsals of his "Rienzi" at the Théâtre Lyrique, which is to be produced the second week in February. For the first week in February Gounod's new version of "Faust," prepared for the Imperial Opera (of course, with additional ballets), is promised.

THE AUTHORITIES AT THE BANK OF ENGLAND have issued a circular calling attention to the fact that paper manufactured for various banking and mercantile firms contains water-marks and other devices peculiar to the paper which is prepared solely for the use of the Bank, and reminding the paper manufacturers of the law which prohibits any such paper to be made or used.

#### OBITUARY.

MR. WILLIAM EWART.—Mr. William Ewart, late member for the Dumfries Boroughs, died, at his seat, Broadlands, near Devizes, on Saturday last, at the age of seventy. The second son of the late Mr. William Ewart, merchant, of Liverpool, he was born at Liverpool, in the year 1798, and received his early education at Eton, where he numbered among his schoolfellows Dr. Pusey; Mr. Denison, Speaker of the House of Commons; the late Dr. Trower, Bishop of Gibraltar; the Marquis of Londonderry, and the late Marquis Camden, K.G. From Eton he passed to Christ Church, Oxford, where his poem gained the Newdegate prize in 1819—the subject being "The Temple of Diana at Ephesus." He took his B.A. degree in Easter Term, 1821, obtaining a second class in classical honours. In 1827 he was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple, and in the following year entered Parliament on a casual vacancy for the since-disfranchised borough of Bletchingley. At the general election of 1830 he was chosen for his native borough of Liverpool; he was again chosen in 1831; and he also sat for that constituency from the general election in December, 1832, till the dissolution consequent on the King's death, in July, 1837, when Lord Sandon and Sir Cresswell Cresswell were the successful candidates. On the death of Mr. R. Potter, towards the close of 1839, he again returned to the House of Commons as M.P. for Wigan; but at the general election of 1841 he did not solicit re-election by that constituency, but he was chosen, after a contest, for the Dumfries district of boroughs, which he continued to represent down to the dissolution of last year, being returned at every subsequent general election. In the earlier part of his career Mr. Ewart's name appeared very frequently in the reports of the Parliamentary debates as a speaker, both on subjects of general politics, in which he was always an advanced Liberal, and also especially on commercial matters, with which his early education and associations rendered him particularly conversant. While Lord Melbourne's Ministry was in power he used to bring forward annually a motion for the equalisation of the duties on East and West Indian sugar; he also strenuously and unremittently urged, at a time when he stood almost alone, the mitigation of our criminal code by the abolition of capital punishment for horse and cattle stealing, &c.; and, with a laudable zeal on behalf of the working classes and the population of our large and crowded cities, he advocated the opening of our public museums and galleries, and other repositories of works of art, as free from every restriction as possible. He also was among the first to propose, and certainly one of those who by steady perseverance carried, several important bills for the establishment of schools of design. Mr. Ewart will be remembered as having introduced into Parliament the measure known as the Prisoners' Counsel Act, and also the Free Public Libraries Act of 1850, which is in extensive and useful operation, especially in our great northern centres of commercial industry. Mr. Ewart, who was a magistrate for Wiltshire, and was formerly one of the council of the London University, married, in 1829, his cousin, Mary Anne, daughter of Mr. G. A. Lee, of Manchester, but was left a widower several years ago.

MR. ERNEST JONES.—The public will learn with surprise and regret that Mr. Ernest Jones died at Manchester on Tuesday afternoon. The recent ballot at Manchester had placed his name with unusual prominence before the public, and his sudden and unexpected death has produced a shock among friends as well as political opponents which obliterates for the moment every sentiment but that of sorrow. He died at his residence in Wellington-street, Higher Broughton. Mr. Jones was suffering from severe cold in the early part of last week, but was induced to leave his bed-room to attend a meeting of the Hulme and Chorlton Working Men's Association last Wednesday evening. He left a heated atmosphere to return home by cab, and incautiously left the window open. It is supposed that the exposure aggravated his cold, and the next day he was attacked by severe inflammation of the lungs, which was afterwards followed by pleurisy, under which he gradually succumbed. He was informed of the result of the ballot on Sunday morning. His last speech to the working men contains the following passage, as reported in a local paper:—"There was a personal reason why he desired soon to get into the House of Commons, and that was that he could not afford to wait very long. What little work there was in him must be taken out speedily, or it would soon be lost altogether." Mr. Jones completed his fiftieth year on Monday, having been born on Jan. 25, 1819, at Berlin. His father was Major Charles Jones, of the 15th Hussars, and Equerry to the late Duke of Cumberland, who became King of Hanover under the title of Ernest I. The King was Mr. Jones's godfather. Major Jones bought an estate in Holstein, and remained there with his family till 1838. His son Ernest composed a number of poems when very young, which were afterwards published by Nesler, of Hamburg. At eleven years of age he disappeared from home and was found, with a bundle under his arm, trudging across Lauenburg to "help the Poles," who were then in insurrection. Later, he achieved some distinction at the College of St. Michael, Lüneburg. In 1838 Major Jones removed to England with his family, and in 1841 young Ernest was presented to the Queen by the late Duke of Beaufort. He married Miss Atherley, of Barfield, Cumberland, whose father and uncle were the heads of old Conservative families; but Mr. Jones clung to his Radical prepossessions. In this year appeared the first of his larger works, a romance entitled "The Wood Spirit," published anonymously, by Bohn, of New Bond-street. Some songs and poems followed, and in 1844 Mr. Jones was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple. In 1845 he joined the Chartist agitation. Before long he unsuccessfully attempted to enter Parliament, and the alarm produced by his harangues led to his apprehension, at Manchester, in 1848. His health suffered severely during the first nineteen months of his imprisonment, and his own published account of the needless severity of his treatment provoked a good deal of indignation. It is well known that about this time Mr. Jones refused an offer from a family connection that he should retire from political life, in consideration of becoming the inheritor of a large property. On the contrary, he devoted all the means he possessed to the advocacy of his political convictions, which he retained unmodified to the last. Those who had opportunities of hearing him talk of the delights he experienced in the prosecution of what he deemed to be the rights of the mass of his countrymen would find it hard to resist the impression of his sincerity, devotion, and self-sacrifice in the cause. His early life gave him a large acquaintance with German and Danish politics, as he proved by some speeches during the last Danish war.

SIR WILLIAM NEWTON.—Sir William John Newton, whose death occurred a day or two since, at his residence in Cambridge-terrace, Hyde Park, in the eighty-fourth year of his age, was a son of the late Mr. James Newton, of London, by Abigail, daughter of Mr. Peet. He was born in London, in 1785, and when still a young man attained great popularity as a painter of miniatures. It is said that in the days of the Regency, and even so lately as forty years ago, there was scarcely a member of the aristocracy who had not sat either to Newton or his rival, and perhaps his superior, the late Sir William Charles Ross. The deceased gentleman, who claimed to be the nearest surviving relative (bearing the same surname) of Sir Isaac Newton, was knighted in the year 1837, and held for many years the honorary post of miniature-painter in ordinary to her Majesty.

MR. JOHN HULME.—The death is announced, at Manchester, of John Hulme, whose mechanical skill and the part he took in connection with the important invention, the self-acting mule, entitle him to notice. The patent of the "mule" was bought by a firm in France, and Mr. Hulme, being the only one who understood the construction, was sent out to fit up the machine. The feeling was very strong at that time against the introduction of English machinery and mechanics into France, and he found it expedient to take a passport as a "farmer," and to pass amongst the French workmen as an "American." After his return to England he was

subjected to much persecution and annoyance, and received threatening letters in Scotland and other places where he was sent to superintend the fitting up of the machines. He remained with the firm of Sharp and Roberts about twenty-three years, and then went to St. Petersburg to superintend the fitting up of several pairs of mules which had been sent there by his employers. He afterwards took a situation as spinning-master in a cotton-mill near St. Petersburg, where he remained about six years, and then, during the time of the Russian War, returned to his family in England. He died at the age of sixty-nine years.

OFFICIAL GALLANTRY.—An amusing result of the passport system reported from Paris. A certain Mayor had to make out a passport for a certain Duchess. The Duchess was wealthy; the Mayor was in her service. The Duchess was something of a coquette; the Mayor was anxious to gratify her humour. But the Duchess was one-eyed, and the Mayor had difficulty in making out the passport. How was he to describe her eyes? He entered them in the schedule as follows:—"Eyes—Dark, beautiful, full of expression—one of them being absent." This is surely the triumph of courtesy, and worthy of the nation that plumes itself on its politeness.

THE BURNS PUNCHBOWL.—The Newcastle and Tyneside Burns Club celebrated on Monday night the 110th anniversary of Burns's birthday. About 150 gentlemen sat down to dinner. Occupying a prominent position in front of the chairman was the famous punchbowl in which

"Willie brewed a peck o' maut,  
And Rab and Allan came to prie."

This relic is now in the possession of Mr. A. Brown, Hood-street, Newcastle, who is married to one of the daughters of "Willie Nicol," in whose house in Dumfriesshire the scene described in Burns's song was enacted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Mr. Punch to ask—1. What is the Ritual Commission doing now? 2. Whether one part of the Thames Embankment won't be worn away before the other is completed? 3. When there is going to be easy communication between guard and passenger on every railway? 4. When improved fire-escapes will be made and used? 5. When the police force will be improved? 6. When known and suspected thieves can be dealt with preventively, and their nests destroyed? 7. Whether as to subjects of questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 we must wait for some tremendous accident or fearful crisis to hurry us into active measures?—*Punch*.

RABBITS.—On and after Tuesday next the tenants on the estate of Mr. Price, a large landowner in Merionethshire, will be permitted to destroy rabbits on their own farms. The permission is extended beyond the tenant himself, and includes one of his yearly servants. The rabbits destroyed are to be the property of the tenant, and the privilege is cloaked with no other condition than that "traps, ferrets, and purse-nets shall be the only means of destruction engaged, the traps to be placed in burrows twelve inches from the surface, and not elsewhere." The promulgation of a notice conveying the above concession has settled on Mr. Price's estate what Lord Granville, speaking at Shrewsbury the other day, referred to as "the question that has caused more unpleasantness between landlord and tenant than any other point of contention."

LETTING THE PEWS.—The New York papers give the particulars of an annual letting of the pews in the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's church, in Brooklyn. There was a large attendance. Having explained that the debts of the church were paid, and that out of the proceeds of the past year many thousands of dollars had been expended for charitable purposes, Mr. Beecher introduced "the speaker from New Jersey," that is, the auctioneer, Mr. Pillsbury, the gentleman referred to, came forward and said:—"Ladies and gentlemen, I suppose that I had graduated from this institution three or four times, but it seems that I am required to take another course. Well, gentlemen, you can take the choice of any seat in the house except Mr. Beecher's. How much am I offered? How much am I offered, gentlemen? Two hundred dollars! twenty-five, fifty, seventy-five, three hundred, three-fifty, four hundred dollars, gentlemen! five, ten, fifteen, twenty, hundred and fifteen dollars, gentlemen! Who is the happy man? Coler at twenty, at twenty, at twenty, at four hundred and twenty dollars—four hundred and twenty dollars—are you all done at four hundred and twenty dollars? Sold! to Henry C. Bowen for four hundred and twenty dollars." Mr. Bowen took No. 89, the second pew directly back of the pastor's. It should be understood that the amounts bid were premiums in addition to the assessed value of the pews. Mr. Bowen's pew, being 120 dollars, cost him 540 dollars. The other pews were disposed of in the same manner, twenty having been sold consecutively for 300 dollars each. The total amount of this year is 54,500 dollars, for pew-rent alone. Last year the amount was 48,700 dollars. The premiums alone this year are 42,500 dollars.

PROPOSED MONUMENT TO KING ROBERT BRUCE.—Recently a large and influential meeting was held in the Townhall, Lochmaben—Provost Dinwiddie in the chair—at which the Rev. William Graham, Edinburgh, author of "The History of Lochmaben," advocated at some length the idea of erecting a monument to "Scotland's Hero King," in what he claimed as the place of his birth—Lochmaben. He argued that, though the people of Ayrshire held Turnberry Castle to be the place where Bruce was born, they could not substantiate this from history, and the probabilities were all in favour of Lochmaben, whose castle, on the border of the loch, was built by Bruce himself as an improvement on the border fortress that used formerly to crown the Castle-hill, and in which he first saw the light. He had every reason to believe that, were a committee formed, having Lochmaben for its headquarters, the proposal would prove eminently successful. It would not be a local but a national object; and as the name of Bruce was more illustrious than that of Wallace in Scottish history, the memorial on the Abbey Chair at Stirling should give them encouragement to proceed. A friend in Edinburgh had supplied him with a sketch, the idea of which was a Corinthian column, on the top of which Bruce, clad in mail and resting on his sword with his right hand, was represented looking towards Edinburgh and Bannockburn, where he accomplished Scottish independence, and pointed with his left hand to Dumfries, where he struck his first great blow (at the traitor Comyn) for the emancipation of his country. The speaker was frequently applauded, and at the close he moved a resolution in the terms of his speech. Treasurer Johnston seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation; and a committee was appointed to forward the erection of the memorial, as proposed.

FEARFUL BOILER EXPLOSION.—282 MEN IMPRISONED IN A MINE.—The Aldwarke Main Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Waring, Shaw, and Co., and situated at Rawmarsh, about two miles from Rotherham, was, on Wednesday, the scene of a fearful boiler explosion, which, though not of a fatal character, has yet been attended with disastrous consequences. The drawing apparatus at the pit mouth was of a somewhat extensive nature, and was worked by a powerful engine, which was fed with steam by three large boilers, 36 ft. by 4 ft., lying parallel to each other alongside the engine-house. Early on Wednesday morning 282 out of the 350 miners employed at the colliery were lowered into the mine as usual, and all went on well until a few minutes before twelve o'clock, when the boiler nearest the engine-house burst with a fearful report, which was heard several miles away. In a moment the engine-house became a mass of ruins, and the gearing at the pit mouth was blown away, bricks and timber flying about in all directions. At the time of the explosion there were nearly thirty men employed in various capacities at the pit mouth, but, strange to say, none of them were killed, though several were injured; there were, however, one or two miraculous escapes. Richard Bailey, a corve-greaser, was blown from the stage over the pit mouth right through a window on the upper story of the engine-house, where he was found with no more serious injury than a double fracture of the arm. Several other men, including William Knapton, who had charge of the boilers, and had just examined them, were slightly injured. Several pieces of the boiler, nearly two tons in weight, were blown a distance of several hundred yards. There was great alarm as to the 282 miners in the pit below, communication with whom was found to be impossible until nearly five o'clock, when the first batch was brought up, a temporary apparatus, worked by horse and manual labour, having been fixed.

"TOWER BRIDGE."—A cry comes from Tower-hill for a new bridge over the Thames. A correspondent signing himself "Broad Arrow" thus states the case:—"London, from Richmond to Plumstead, is twenty miles long. One half has a score of bridges, the other half is void of one. The lowest (London) is so much overburdened with traffic that at certain periods of the day it is nearly at a dead-lock. The Tower, with its adjuncts—wharf, hill, ditch, and garden—has outlived its time and purposes. It is locally an obstruction and parochially a nuisance—a wall-corps awaiting the coroner's disposal. Exteriorly it is *sans gas, sans paves, sans scavenger*. Interiorly, by day only a favoured few can pass through; by night and on Sunday it is as close as the grave. Let this side of the public be utilised; widen and straightify its wharf; open it out at its present eastern and western ends, thereby connecting those centres of steam-boat commerce, the Scotch and the Irish, the Dutch and the Belgian, now variously dispersed; let there be free, safe, and commodious piers and landing-stages of the Liverpool pattern. Absorb the exterior garden, abolish Postern-row, and establish in their places a broad way from Tower-street to the docks, befitting modern times and the heart of a commercial suburb. Hall to the gallant veterans now in office at the Tower, who are, as I hope, preparing the means to, these changes by removing the public stores to Woolwich and having the obsolete buildings removed as fast as empty. Let the chaise-road street over the hill be named Bargoyne, and that over the wharf, be Row. But the bridge, the bridge, the Tower bridge is the be-all and end-all of this thermal acclamation. Let it surpass every other yet built; be as much such superior to Blackfriars as that is to Westminster. Let its points of support be the old White Tower and the Church of St. John, Horselydown. Let it have spread wings at its City and its Borough ends, to wait its courses by adequate new routes. Let it be a pride and a glory to ourselves and a subject for admiration to our visitors from every clime and country."



OVEREND, GURNEY, AND Co.—The six directors of Overend, Gurney, and Co. (Limited) were on Wednesday committed for trial on the charge of conspiracy to defraud the shareholders. The court was densely packed in every part, and on the Lord Mayor announcing his decision loud cheers were given, and were taken up by an immense crowd which had gathered outside. In reply to the usual question, Mr. J. H. Gurney, Mr. Barclay, Mr. Glyn, and Mr. Rennie each made a statement to the effect that they had no intention to defraud, and in forming the company they had acted in perfect good faith, and that they desired the fullest investigation. The defendants were released on bail, each in £10,000 and two sureties of £5,000. It is the least extraordinary part of the evidence given by the defendants that they

**HUSBAND-BEATING.**—At Marlborough-street last Saturday, Mrs. Sarah Weaver, 46, Wardour-street, was summoned before Mr. Knox for beating her husband, Alfred Weaver. The complainant said she married the defendant about five years ago and three months after the wedding-day his wife set to throwing glasses and other missiles at him. On one occasion he cut her head with a jug. He had forgiven her over and over again, but, notwithstanding her promises of amendment, she beat him on the previous night, and he could stand it no longer. The defendant asked the complainant how many times he had given her black eyes.

had been in the habit of reading those cheap periodicals published for the alleged amusement of the youth of both sexes. He found that the stories which produced the greatest impression upon their minds were those in which the worst scoundrels were successful in wickedness. One boy in particular had set before his mind a hero of great strength, who flinched from no crime of violence, as his example, and endeavoured to improve his own strength in order to resemble him. These boys generally visited the theatres, and the strongest impression was always produced by the plays in which the vilest villain was the hero. In many cases the boys had obtained money by

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—G. SMITH, Tharcaston, carpenter.

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